Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe CUC when it says there will be no more power outages after Sept. 16?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

12 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

Thai Tension

Thailand's embattled leader struggled to keep the peace and his grip on power after declaring a state of emergency.

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LaFontaine, 68

Don LaFontaine, the man who lent his voice to thousands of movie trailers, has died.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

No initiatives in this year's ballot. **PAGE 3**
Fitial lifts CPA's state of emergency. **PAGE 5**

Aggreko generators arrive

But 24-hour power at airport no longer guaranteed

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Twelve of the 18 Aggreko generators have arrived on island and are undergoing tests at Lower Base in preparation for Sept. 12, when they will be turned on.

Their arrival comes as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña admits that CUC can no longer guarantee 24-hour power at the airport.

The new generators should be producing 15 megawatts—their full capacity—

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A Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s crew tests the new Aggreko generators inside the CUC container yard in Lower Base yesterday afternoon. Inset shows CUC personnel arranging the cables that will be hooked to the generators.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tension high at marine monument forum

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Representatives from the Pew Environmental Group deliver their presentation on the marine monument proposal to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during the group's monthly general membership meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel yesterday.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In a tense public forum Wednesday, environmentalists backing a controversial proposal to establish a national marine monument in a vast swath of ocean encompassing the CNMI's northern waters squared-off with opponents of the plan, represented by two local government officials.

Before the forum even began, the two sides found themselves debating the results of the coin toss that was supposed to decide

See TENSION on Page 4

Benedetto joins US Attorney's Office

Federal agencies on Saipan also to expand

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Benedetto

Federal Ombudsman James Benedetto is joining the U.S. Attorney's Office on Saipan, as federal agencies are beefing up their staff to improve law enforcement in the CNMI in line with the federalization law's transition period.

The addition of Benedetto and lawyer Kirk Schuler brings to four the

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'Illegal taxis may endanger passengers'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Taxicab services on Saipan operating without government approval are skirting safety and insurance regulations and could pose a serious risk to passengers

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Local

Judge refuses to recuse self from Fund lawsuit

Cites court's lack of funds to appoint judge pro tem

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Citing the Superior Court's present budget crisis, associate judge Kenneth Govendo has refused to remove himself from presiding over the NMI Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

If he were to recuse himself, Govendo said there would be no one else in the Superior Court who could hear the Fund's lawsuit.

"The other judges would recuse themselves for the same reasons cited here and the Judiciary lacks the ability to fund a judge pro tem," Govendo said in a written order issued last week.

He pointed out that the rule of necessity is applicable in this situation and bars him from recusing.

The judge said the lawsuit is a complex matter and would involve a lengthy appointment.

"There are simply not adequate funds available to appoint a judge pro tem for a case of this nature," he said.

The Fund filed the lawsuit against the government, Fitial, Finance Department, and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's alleged failure to remit the required employer contribution payments, now reaching over $119.6 million.

The hearing was held last Aug. 13. Attorney Viola Alepuyo appeared on behalf of the Fund. The defendants were represented by assistant attorney general Anthony Welch.

The lawyers informed the court of the existence of bias due to the subject matter of the case. They then argued their positions on the possibility of Govendo's recusal.

In his order, Govendo said any member of the Judiciary presiding over this case runs the risk of appearing biased.

In addition, Govendo said, every judge within the Superior Court has a personal interest in this case; they each have invested into the Fund.

A CNMI statute, he said, directs any judge or justice to disqualify him- or herself in any proceeding where their impartiality might be reasonably questioned.

Therefore, Govendo said, being both a defendant and having a vested interest in the Fund, he appears obligated to remove himself from this case.

"It is clear that these issues of bias apply to every other judge in this Superior Court. All of them are part of the Judiciary and have a personal interest in the Retirement Fund," said the judge, adding that the other judges would also have to recuse themselves pursuant to the statute.

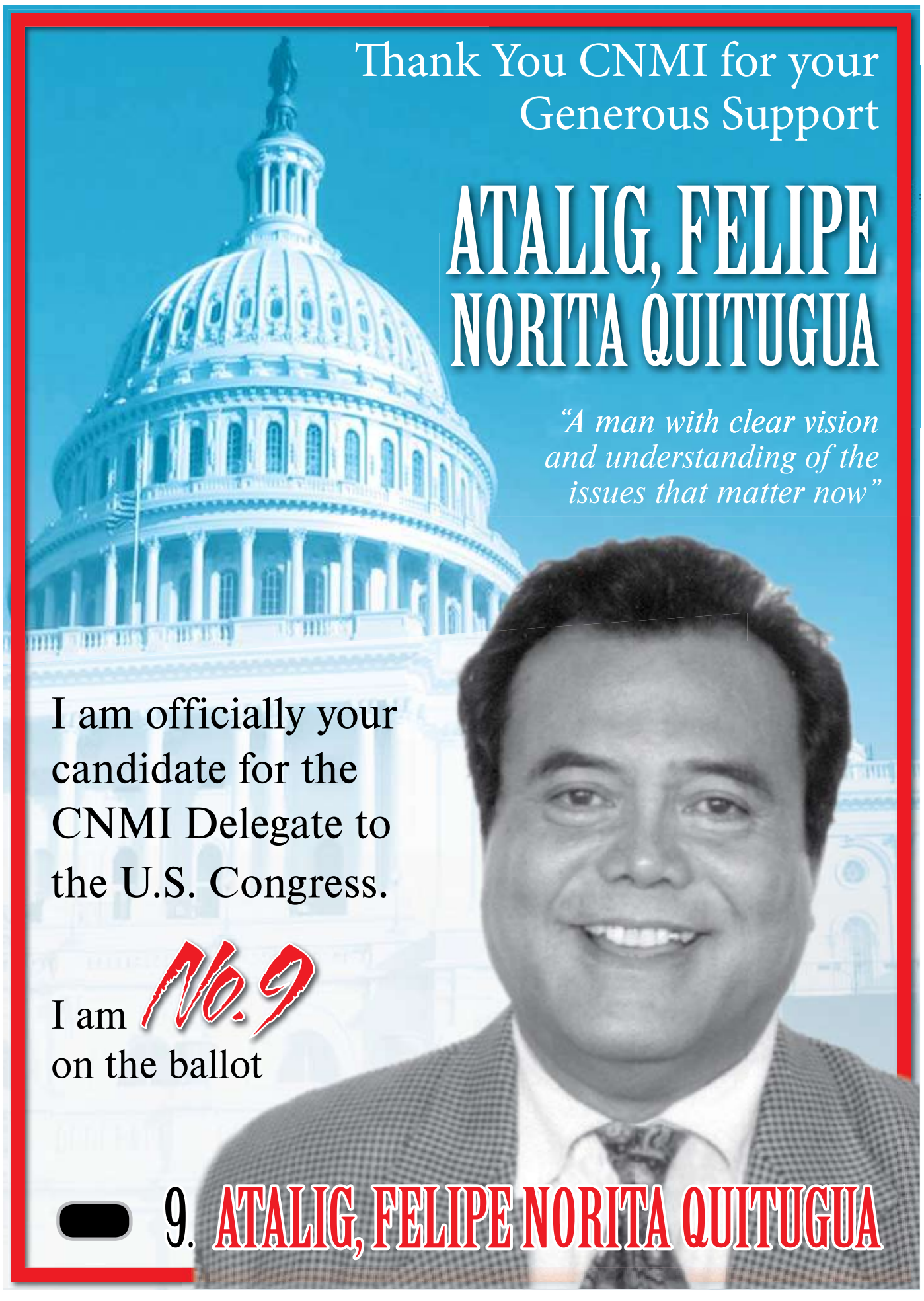
As such, Govendo said, a recusal on his part would be followed by the recusal of every other judge and would leave the parties without a viable venue in which to adjudicate this case.

Citing a previous federal court ruling, Govendo said this common law rule of necessity, which dates back over five centuries, applies even when the source of bias is a financial interest just like in the Fund's lawsuit.

The judge said the applicability of this common law rule of necessity to the present situation comes into play whether or not there are any other available judges who could hear this case.

He said he already concluded that all of the Superior Court judges have a personal and financial interest and that the only option would be the appointment of a judge pro tem who does not have a government retirement account and therefore would be unbiased.

Unfortunately, Govendo stressed, this option is neither practical nor possible in light of the Superior Court's present budge crisis.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No initiatives in this year's ballot

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

No initiatives will be on the ballot this year, following legislation designating the delegate election as a special election, as opposed to a regular election.

On Aug. 25, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill setting procedures for the election of the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. The measure labeled the delegate election as a special election, thus precluding any initiatives from making it to the ballot.

The Constitution requires that initiatives to amend the Constitution or a general law be placed on the ballot at a regular general election. The current definition of a "regular general election" only includes elections held in odd-numbered years on the first Saturday of November.

Julita A. Villagomez, acting executive director at the Commonwealth Election Commission, said the commissioners have voted to go with the decision that this is a special election.

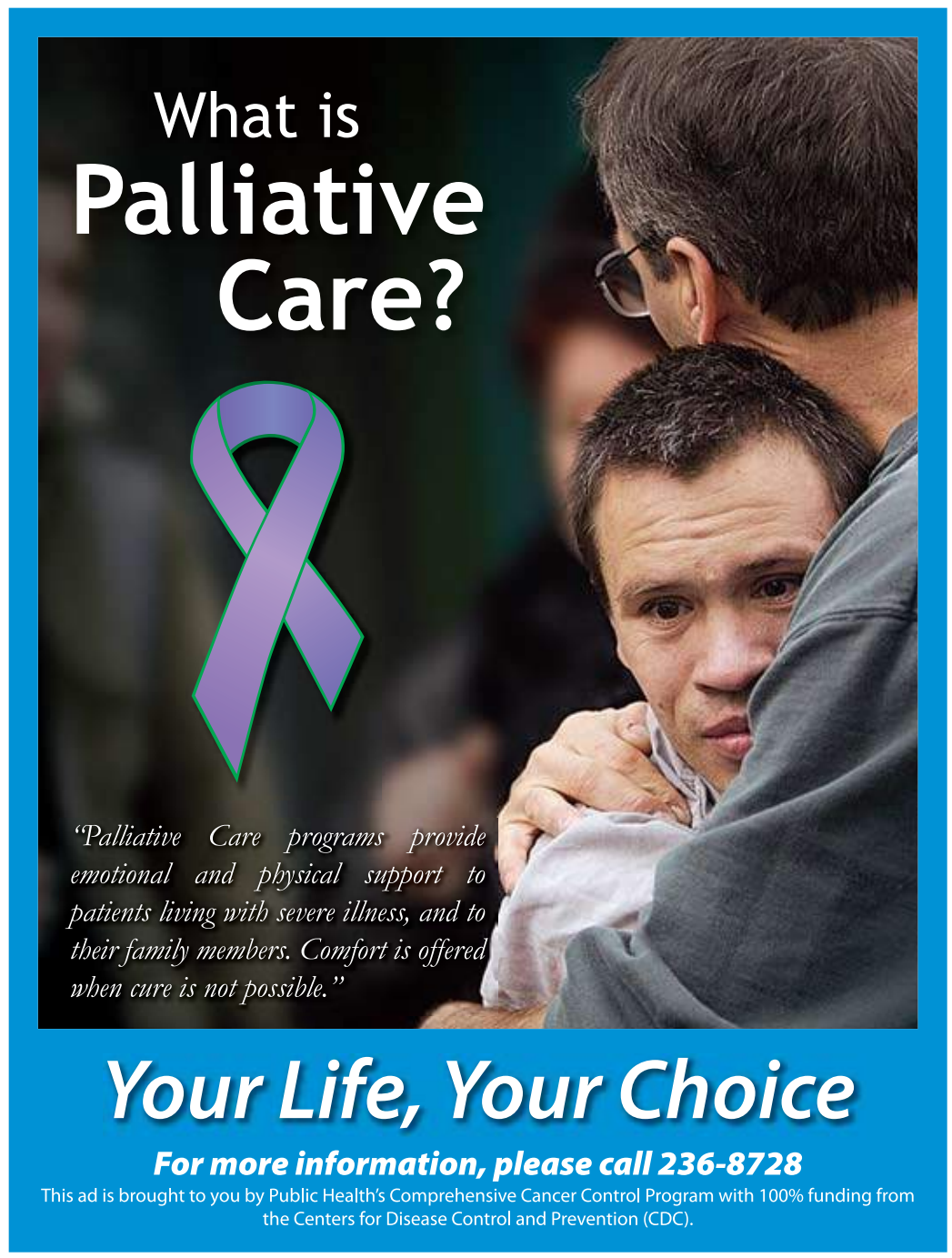
"If it's a special election, we cannot put anything on the ballot [except the position for which the election was called]," she said.

All pending initiatives—popular or legislative—will now have to wait until the November 2009 gubernatorial election to be ratified.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who has submitted a popular initiative to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature, remains unconvinced that this year should be considered a special election, but says she will let the issue pass.

"Frankly, I think there is still an argument to be made that this is a regular general election no matter what we say or do," she said. "I suppose we could have appealed to the courts. But we have opted instead to focus our efforts on 2009 rather than go through a potentially lengthy and expensive court process on an issue that has had so many roadblocks thrown up against it by the Legislature as well as the Attorney General's Office. At least, in 2009, there will be no question that that election is in fact a regular general election."

Several initiatives passed by the previous and the current Legislatures are awaiting ratification. One initiative, passed by the 15th Legislature, proposes to limit elected board members to two four-year terms and to increase the education budget from 15 percent to 25 percent of the CNMI's general revenue. Another initiative, passed by current lawmakers, calls for a government shutdown in the absence of an up to date budget law.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BENEDETTO

From Page 1

number of federal prosecutors at the U.S. Attorney's Office on Saipan—a first. The U.S. Attorney's Office on the island used to have a maximum of just three assistant U.S. attorneys.

U.S. Attorney for Guam and the NMI Leonardo M. Rapadas announced the addition of Benedetto and Schuler to their Saipan office in a press briefing yesterday.

Rapadas said the expansion of their office on the island, which coincides with the recently announced addition of several federal investigators, is part of the federal government's ongoing mission to improve law enforcement in the Northern Marianas and to prepare for the military expansion in Guam.

Benedetto and Schuler will begin work as assistant U.S. attorneys on Sept. 15, 2008.

According to Rapadas, Benedetto brings to the office "his extensive prosecutorial experience, his reputation of inviolable integrity, as well as a deep knowledge of and affection for this community."

Rapadas said Benedetto would greatly bolster the Justice Department's ability to confront the CNMI's most pressing issues, including public corruption, human trafficking and smuggling, drug interdiction, and the transition to a federally-controlled system of immigration.

"His integrity is beyond question. He probably got some people mad in the CNMI, but I think that's the functions of his quality of work and his integrity," he said. "One other important thing about Jim is he's been a long-time resident of the CNMI and really cares about the CNMI."

Benedetto served as a prosecutor in Alaska for five years. He moved to Saipan and worked as an assistant attorney general for three years. He then became a federal ombudsman.

Rapadas said Schuler, who arrived on the island with his wife just a few days ago, would be handling some immigration cases. He said Schuler's presence is funded by the Department of the Interior's immigration initiative. He said there will be some immigration issues that will be coming up next year.

Schuler comes from Iowa where he worked for Judge Mark W. Bennett in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

Before working for Bennett, Schuler worked for Justice Mark S. Cody of the Iowa Supreme Court.

Benedetto said he is very happy to have the opportunity to continue to serve the United States and the people of the CNMI.

"It's been a dream of mine for quite some time," Benedetto said.

He said the most attractive thing about his new job is that the U.S. Attorney's Office has the resources to prosecute cases the way he thinks they should be prosecuted.

"Which means if you need a follow up investigation, you can get it. If you need an expert, you can get it. If you need a report or a test, you can get it. They have the resources and are committed to doing what they need to do," Benedetto said.

Schuler said he is excited to be part of the U.S Attorney's Office and Rapadas' team.

"I am very thrilled to be able to work with three seasoned attorneys in the Saipan Branch office," said Schuler, referring to Benedetto and the current assistant U.S. attorneys Eric O'Malley and Beverly R. McCallum.

Rapadas said the U.S. Attorney's Office is being expanded due to the DOJ's expectation that there is going to be "growth" in the CNMI in the next few years.

He disclosed that some of their federal sister agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration are also expanding in the CNMI.

"Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to speak with special agents in charge with ATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms] and IRS [Internal Revenue Service] and they both expressed a desire to increase their presence in the CNMI," Rapadas said.

He said all these is part of the DOJ's ongoing mission to prosecute to the fullest extent those who violate federal laws in the CNMI.

ILLEGAL

From Page 1

looking for a cheap ride, according to CNMI Department of Commerce officials.

Commerce issued notices earlier this year to six taxi services on Saipan operating without the department's approval, prompting five of them later to close, acting Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said in an interview Wednesday. At least one of those companies, known as Tropical Island, has challenged Commerce's enforcement effort and remains open, continuing to pick up passengers.

"These companies are a danger to the community," Ada said. "They're a danger to consumers and there's no way for us to monitor how much they are earning, so the government might be losing out on potential tax revenues from companies that are not reporting or underreporting their income."

Meanwhile, taxi drivers say scores of other unregulated taxis are roaming the island without Commerce's knowledge and taking business away from cabs that follow local rules.

Most taxi services on Saipan get approval from Commerce, department officials said, which requires them to submit to safety inspections, obtain health certifications, carry onboard fire extinguishers and show proof of taxi insurance—which covers passengers in the event of an accident. Yet unregulated cabs have avoided abiding by these standards.

"For passengers, if they get into one of these cabs, they are taking a risk," said David Palacios, Commerce's enforcement chief. "If they get injured, insurance does not cover them like it would in a regular taxi."

In the case of Tropical Island, Palacios said the company has obtained a business license to operate as a transportation company rather than a taxi service; a designation that its owners contend gives them the ability to stay in business without the need for approval from taxi regulators. For now, that distinction is working in the company's favor.

"It's a loophole and technically it shouldn't be one," said Ada, adding that changing rules to close it could prove tricky because the department wants to avoid penalizing hotels that provide transportation to tourists.

Local regulations, however, define the type of vehicle Tropical Island uses—four door sedans that seat less than eight passengers—as a taxi, meaning the company should be subject Commerce's authority, he added.

Tropical Island has asked for a hearing on the issue with Commerce officials, according to Palacios, yet the department currently lacks the hearing officers it needs to conduct one, giving the company an indefinite stay on any enforcement action.

"They're challenging the codes and they have to be heard," Palacios said.

For those cabbies that follow the rules, black market cab companies represent a major concern and a drain on the number of paying customers available on Saipan because they can afford to offer cheaper rates than regulated taxi services.

"They are significantly affecting our business," said Rabby Syed, president of the Saipan Taxi Association. "They take customers, like tourists and people off the U.S. Navy ships, away from us."

Tropical Island did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

TENSION

From Page 1

which of them would present their case first.

Later, one presenter for the monument's opponents, Coastal Resources Management Director John Joyner, apparently tried to jumpstart the forum early, speaking to the crowd several minutes before the forum began from his table rather than the podium, to be politely cut off by Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James Arenovski.

The proposed monument has proven highly controversial in the CNMI with environmentalists contending the 115,000 square miles of ocean it would protect are a "biodiversity hotspot" that is increasingly under threat and opponents saying the plan would unnecessarily intrude on the CNMI's autonomy and bar any future fishing or mining in the area.

President Bush in a memo issued last month called on federal agencies to conduct an assessment of the waters at issue—those surrounding the islands of Maug, Uracus and Asuncion—to determine whether they are a suitable site for a monument. The assessment process could take up to two months.

During the forum, hosted by the Chamber and held at Saipan Grand Hotel, Angelo Villagomez, coordinator for the Pew Charitable Trust—the organization that has championed the creation of the monument—said the proposal could bolster the CNMI's economy, increase tourism and safeguard a unique region of the Pacific that is home to rare life and geology. Villagomez gave the Pew Trust's presentation first.

"The number one reason for doing this is environmental conservation," he said. "Anyone who has been out on the lagoon knows there are fewer fish there and they are smaller. And this true not just in Saipan's lagoon."

The timing of the proposal, he added, is critical with Bush now seeking to cement his so-called "Blue Legacy" of ocean conservation before the end of his term. The CNMI is competing with two other sites where Bush may establish a monument.

"There's a limited timeframe for this," said Villagomez. "When President Bush leaves office, we no longer have a president we know who is interested in ocean conservation."

Pointing to a host of news articles written about the monument proposal recently, Villagomez added the plan could draw significant and positive media attention to the CNMI.

Opponents of the monument presented their case later, represented by Joyner and CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director Sylvan Igisomar, who said the plan is unnecessary given the tight local protections that are already in place to protect the waters in question.

"The bottom line is that there are protections now," Igisomar said, pointing to federal statutes designed to safeguard the local marine environment. "They already exist."

Establishing a monument, he added, will take away the rights of local people to decide how to regulate the CNMI's ocean resources.

"It is like for to me to ask you guys to sign over the deed to your house, to your property without us first agreeing on a price," said Igisomar.

Joyner added the proposal raises serious questions about the federal government's power to seize property and said it has more to do with boosting Bush's presidential image in the twilight of his final term than protecting the environment.

"It's for self-aggrandizement," he said. "It is for the emergency of a lame duck president that is leaving. We are managing these waters correctly and properly. We have been good stewards."

In an editorial published the same day, the *New York Times* endorsed Bush's plans to establish a new marine monument and blasted one of its key opponents, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, or Wespac.

"President Bush may be on the brink of doing something stunningly at odds with his record as one of the worst environmental stewards ever to inhabit the White House," the *Times* writes. "All we can say is: Go for it, Mr. President."

On Wespac, the *Times* said the council "is notorious among environmental groups as a chronic enabler of reckless commercial fishing."

AGGREKO

From Page 1

by Sept. 16 or 17 to supplement CUC's expected 30 megawatts of power, Muña said. Two more shipments of generators should arrive by Sept. 12.

"There have been no hang ups. We don't see any delays," Aggreko site manager Wayne Lee said yesterday at Lower Base.

The generators, along with three transformers, arrived Monday from Singapore, where they underwent various tests. Tests were also conducted after they came off the manufacturing line in Scotland, Lee said.

The generators are self-contained, and Aggreko will mostly use their own equipment and manpower, Lee said. CUC will provide the fuel tank, with four Aggreko employees working each shift, supplemented by local labor.

Aggreko has also brought in four storage tanks, each holding 20,000 liters of diesel, in case of an emergency, Lee said.

"We won't use them on a day to day basis," he added. "We generally have the internal storage tank."

Muña said he is confident the generators will withstand wear and tear.

"The way these are built, they're built to operate in jungles and the desert," he said.

"This is definitely one of the nicer places," Lee added.

But until the generators are operational, the Aggreko workers have to deal with the same problems as the rest of the island, Lee said.

"We've been here the last few weeks, and we're working without power ourselves," he said.

The crew rented a generator to provide light at night, he added.

The 15 additional megawatts from the Aggreko generators, added to the 24 to 30 megawatts CUC is expected to produce, will give the island 39 to 45 megawatts on a daily basis, Muña said.

Approximately 41 megawatts are needed to sufficiently power the island. Currently, CUC is producing about 19 to 24 megawatts on a daily basis.

Muña said he anticipates Power Plant 4 to produce 14 megawatts, Power Plant 1 to produce 10 and Power Plant 2 to produce 6. Power Plant 4 has regularly produced 14 megawatts, but Power Plant 1 has produced as little as 5 megawatts in the last few weeks. Yesterday morning, Power Plant 1 was producing 8.5 megawatts with two engines running. Another engine was expected to be running by the end of the night, Gary Camacho, acting Power Division manager, said. Power Plant 2 was producing 1.5 megawatts yesterday morning, the first time an engine has been operational there since June.

"We're happy to get engine 6 [at Power Plant 2] up," Camacho said.

Crews hope to get three megawatts of power from Plant 2 by the end of the week, Camacho added.

Yesterday, Muña said he hopes to have four engines at Power Plant 1 up by next week.

Until then, Muña added, outages will continue to be a problem for all areas, including the airport, which experienced a power outage for about an hour Sunday.

"It's unavoidable," Muna said. "It's a balancing act. Essentially, that's what we're faced with."

The airport first experienced a power problem Aug. 21, when two outbound flights were delayed during a three-hour outage. The airport's two backup generators went down several months ago, and they will not be fixed until November or December.

Muña said CUC continues to try their best to provide 24-hour power so inbound and outbound flights won't be delayed.

"We continue to be focused to get power as best we can," he said. "Obviously, with one engine it presents some challenges."

CUC officials extended assistance to the Commonwealth Ports Authority director, offering an engine from Power Plant 2, but it was unsuccessful, Muña said.

Fitial lifts CPA's state of emergency

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial lifted the state of emergency for the Commonwealth Ports Authority after swearing in two additional board members yesterday.

Fitial said CPA may have its autonomy back now that there are enough board members to meet quorum requirements and run the ports authority.

"This is the time to return control of the CPA over to them and allow them to do their job," the governor said in an executive order.

The two new board members who took their oath of office yesterday are Manuel Villagomez from Tinian and Barry Toves from Rota. They join previously sworn-in directors Benigno M. Sablan, Fermin Sakisat, Thomas Villagomez, and Joe Lifoifoi. The seventh CPA appointee, Margarita Praeter, is still awaiting Senate confirmation.

Fitial convened the CPA board after the oath-taking ceremony. An election followed, with Lifoifoi being voted chairman, Villagomez vice chairman and Sakisat secretary.

Fitial in an interview expressed satisfaction with the board's choice of officers. "CPA will be in good hands," he said.

Earlier this year, Fitial dissolved the CPA board, saying the ports authority was on the verge of a technical default on its multi-million dollar airport revenue bond, and that the board had failed to implement measures to prevent it. The emergency declaration was extended three times, largely because of the lack of members for CPA board. The latest extension was not due to expire until the middle of this month.

"I did not wait until expiration to lift the state of emergency. This will show the world I am not authoritarian," he said.

Three-car smashup during outage

A three-vehicle smashup occurred at an intersection along Beach Road, Susupe, during an outage yesterday morning.

No one was injured, but one driver complained of neck pain. The other driver was cited for failing to yield to a motorist who had the right of way.

No police officer was guiding the traffic flow at the intersection when the accident occurred at 11am, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Two of the three drivers blamed the outage and lack of a police officer manning the intersection as the main factors that triggered the crash.

Witnesses said a silver Nissan Sentra being driven by a 65-year-old woman was heading south and was approaching the intersection of Beach Road in front of the Saipan World Resort. The Nissan Sentra car was following two other vehicles that had turned left, going in the direction of the former Nauru Building.

The Nissan Sentra car collided with a silver Toyota Echo being driven by another woman who was traveling along Beach Road and was heading north. The woman's Toyota Echo ended up hitting another Toyota Echo, driven by a man who had stopped his car while preparing to turn right going north.

The 65-year-old driver of the Nissan Sentra said she did not see the approaching car as she was following the two other vehicles that had just turned left. Her car's front bumper was severely damaged. The two other vehicles had slight damage on the front bumper's left side.

The female driver of the Toyota Echo complained of pain in the neck as a result of the impact.

At least five police vehicles were spotted parked at the San Jose-Microl intersection shortly before the Susupe accident. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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PSS teachers get help to obtain master's degrees

More than 50 Public School System teachers have expressed interest in pursuing their master's degrees through a new federal grant program that will pay for their education.

The TEACH grant program provides $4,000 scholarships for two years for current or retired teachers to attain a master's degree, said Tim Thornburgh, PSS Federal Programs director. There are some stipulations, however. Recipients must agree to teach the majority of his or her classes in a high need subject for four years within an eight-year period. High need fields for the CNMI are elementary education, special education, language arts grades 7 to 12, and mathematics grades 7 to 12. In the event the recipient fails to follow the stipulations, the grant converts to an unsubsidized student loan with a 6.8 percent annual interest rate, he said.

"It's a grant with teeth," Thornburgh added.

Currently, 126 teachers within PSS have master's degrees, he said.

"Another 60, that's great," he added. "Studies show that students taught by a teacher with a master's degree and five years of experience score higher on standardized tests."

Undergraduate students can also benefit from the TEACH grant. Undergraduates interested in becoming teachers can receive $4,000 for four years to help cover the costs of their education. The same stipulations as the master's degree apply, with a few additional requirements: recipients must maintain a 3.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale or score at the 75th percentile or above on a nationally standardized college admissions test. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. BENIGNO T. FEJERAN, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 07-0230 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 11, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property, Lot 031 T 03, located on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 26,244 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 T 00, which was recorded on October 22, 1976, as Document No. 5640, at Land Registry office in Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on October 3, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at die commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 12th day of August 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Medina installed as Saipan's new postmaster

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Glen I. Sakagawa, senior manager, Postal Career Executive Service, USPS; Gov. Benigno R. Fitial; Leo Tudela, Postal Service director for Asia-Pacific Relations; Hector Medina, newly installed CNMI Postmaster; and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

The new postmaster for Saipan was sworn into office yesterday, vowing to provide reliable mail service to island residents.

Hector Medina replaces the late George Diaz, who passed away in February.

"I've been looking forward to coming over here," Medina said shortly after the oath-taking ceremony held at the Chalan Kanoa post office yesterday morning. "With the economy being the way it is, we will make sure that people are given the service they demand—that people get their mail in a timely fashion."

Asked about the possibility of getting home postal delivery established on Saipan, Medina said he is not optimistic it will happen soon.

"I doubt it would happen during my tenure," he said. "Saipan has lots of requirements that need to be met before home mail delivery becomes a reality. Chief of those requirements is a house numbering system."

According to a USPS press release, Medina's task as postmaster includes supervising nine postal employees and the daily distribution of approximately 14,000 pieces of mail to 5,900 Chalan Kanoa Post Office box customers. He also oversees the contract postal unit operations on Capital Hill, in San Vicente, and on Tinian, which encompass another 2,800 customers.

Leo Tudela, the U.S. Postal Service's director of Asia Pacific relations, touted Medina's record during his 35 years as a postal employee. "Of all the candidates for this job, he is the best-suited and most qualified. He has done an excellent job in Guam and we're sure he will succeed here," said Tudela, who administered the oath.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was present to welcome Medina. "I look forward to your community involvement and your continuous efforts to improve the delivery of mail services for our islands," he said.

Medina is a 35-year postal employee who had served as the officer-in-charge (acting postmaster) at the Guam Post Office for six months before assuming the same position on Saipan in February, and was eventually selected as the permanent Saipan postmaster in May. He began his postal career in 1973 at the Hagatna Station in Guam. He served as a mail carrier for 17 years, and then assumed a variety of supervisory positions within the Guam Post Office over the years.

Medina was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Indiana. He settled in Guam 38 years ago after serving in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife Elizabeth have been married for 36 years and reside in Gualo Ria. They have three adult children and seven grand children. Medina enjoys watching and coaching sports, including Little League baseball.

Aranza seeks transfer of NMI lawsuit to federal court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Office of Insular Affairs director Ferdinand G. Aranza and his consulting firm, Federated Sector Enterprises LLC, asked yesterday to be allowed to transfer the CNMI government's lawsuit against them from the local court to the federal court.

Aranza

Attorney Colin M. Thompson, counsel for Aranza and Federated Sector Enterprises, said his clients assert their right under the law to remove the CNMI government's lawsuit from the Superior Court.

In the notice of removal, Thompson said the U.S. District Court for the NMI has original jurisdiction in this lawsuit based upon diversity jurisdiction.

The lawyer said the CNMI government and defendants are completely diverse in that none of the defendants have residency in the Commonwealth and that the alleged damages are in excess of $75,000.

In the civil lawsuit filed last July, the CNMI government, through the Attorney General's Office, alleged that the Federal Sector Enterprises, a consulting firm managed by Aranza, bilked the CNMI of more than $130,000 through a contract directing the company to write a port security plan for the Commonwealth, which it allegedly plagiarized.

The case allegedly stemmed from a contract that then Gov. Juan N. Babauta inked with Aranza's company in 2003 to develop a plan to win additional Department of Homeland Security funding.

DPS schedules four DUI checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints for four separate days this week and next week.

The first one will be held this Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008, with the first setup at the Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by the Sherwin-Williams Building. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by Minatchom Atdao. This will begin around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

The next DUI/sobriety checkpoint will be held Wednesday next week, Sept. 10, 2008.

The first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road Chalan Laulau by the PTI building. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose Building. This will begin around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

The third checkpoint will be on Sept. 12, 2008, Friday, with the first setup on Chalan Pale Arnold Garapan by the Saipan Museum. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by Carmen Safeway. This will begin around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

The final DUI/sobriety checkpoint will be on Sept. 13, 2008, Saturday. The first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai by the former Pop Store. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by the Cabrera Center. This will begin around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect impaired driving and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Also, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact acting Sgt. Juan C. Mendiola or acting Lt. Paul T. Ogumoro at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

SAEF School

Griffins SAEF School

Registration

Welcome to SAEF School!

Registration will occur on Thursday and Friday (September 4th and 5th), between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Come in person to the office located on the 3rd floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (previously the Nauru Building). The first day of class is Monday, September 8.

Class times are M-F 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. For grades 3 through 8, SAEF follows the Core Knowledge Sequence curriculum. Spelling Power, Hooked on Phonics, Saxon Math and other programs are also utilized. In cooperation with Keystone National School, for grades 9 through 12, SAEF offers a wide variety of AP and regular classes. This program is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS).

SAEF is offering a scholarship program for students who have shown outstanding work. Please save time and bring evidence of high scholarship with you when you come in.

If there is any question about where your student should be studying, remember you are better SAEF than sorry. Email questions to drb@saefschool.org.

Dr. E. Roland Brown, Principal

E. Roland Brown

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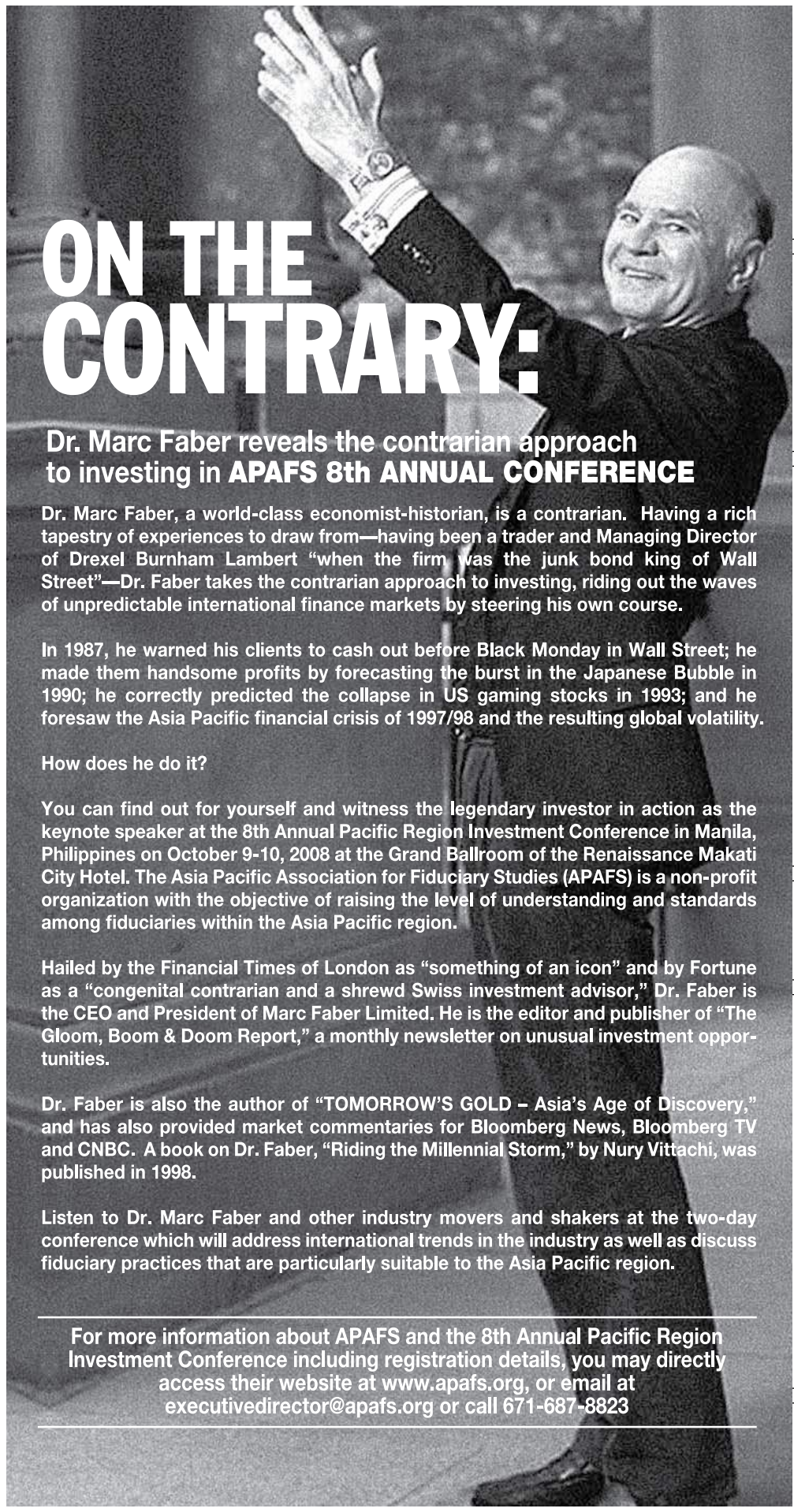

ON THE CONTRARY:

Dr. Marc Faber reveals the contrarian approach to investing in **APAFS 8th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Dr. Marc Faber, a world-class economist-historian, is a contrarian. Having a rich tapestry of experiences to draw from—having been a trader and Managing Director of Drexel Burnham Lambert "when the firm was the junk bond king of Wall Street"—Dr. Faber takes the contrarian approach to investing, riding out the waves of unpredictable international finance markets by steering his own course.

In 1987, he warned his clients to cash out before Black Monday in Wall Street; he made them handsome profits by forecasting the burst in the Japanese Bubble in 1990; he correctly predicted the collapse in US gaming stocks in 1993; and he foresaw the Asia Pacific financial crisis of 1997/98 and the resulting global volatility.

How does he do it?

You can find out for yourself and witness the legendary investor in action as the keynote speaker at the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila, Philippines on October 9-10, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Makati City Hotel. The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) is a non-profit organization with the objective of raising the level of understanding and standards among fiduciaries within the Asia Pacific region.

Hailed by the Financial Times of London as "something of an icon" and by Fortune as a "congenital contrarian and a shrewd Swiss investment advisor," Dr. Faber is the CEO and President of Marc Faber Limited. He is the editor and publisher of "The Gloom, Boom & Doom Report," a monthly newsletter on unusual investment opportunities.

Dr. Faber is also the author of "TOMORROW'S GOLD – Asia's Age of Discovery," and has also provided market commentaries for Bloomberg News, Bloomberg TV and CNBC. A book on Dr. Faber, "Riding the Millennial Storm," by Nury Vittachi, was published in 1998.

Listen to Dr. Marc Faber and other industry movers and shakers at the two-day conference which will address international trends in the industry as well as discuss fiduciary practices that are particularly suitable to the Asia Pacific region.

For more information about APAFS and the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference including registration details, you may directly access their website at www.apafs.org, or email at executivedirector@apafs.org or call 671-687-8823

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Guerrero appointed Director of Courts

Tracy M. Guerrero was named Director of Courts for the CNMI Judiciary. Guerrero took on her new role Sept. 2, 2008, replacing Margaret Palacios, who retired in April 2008. A native of Saipan, Guerrero recently relocated to the CNMI from San Francisco, California, where she spent seven years as a senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. While at GAO, Guerrero worked on various reports to the U.S. Congress on issues such as U.S. government agencies' efforts to address terrorist financing, the impact of amended compact funds to the governments of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia, and procurement practices at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Prior to working at GAO, Guerrero attended California State University at Hayward, where she earned an MBA with a joint emphasis in Finance and New Ventures Management. Guerrero also holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Guerrero

Guerrero says she is pleased to be back on Saipan, stating, "After living in the mainland for almost 10 years, my husband and I have finally returned home to raise our two children and put our education and work experience to good use here in Saipan. I welcome the challenges ahead as the Director of Courts for the Guma Hustisia, and I look forward to becoming productive contributor to our local community."

Some of Guerrero's responsibilities as the Director of Courts for the CNMI Judiciary include supervision of the administrative duties of the court, administration of the Guma Hustisia, and liaising with community leaders and other branches of government.

Chief Justice Miguel Demapan states, "Ms. Guerrero is a top-flight talent with a track record of success working with the federal government. Considering her extensive experience we consider ourselves fortunate to have her working with us." ***(PR)***

OFW health screening on Sept. 7

The officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General and Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Saipan, in cooperation with volunteer Filipino medical team and Hardt Eye Clinic, will conduct a free health screening for Filipino workers on island this Sunday, Sept. 7, from 7am to 12pm at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (the former Nauru Building) in Susupe.

Medical services will include a vision check-up, determination of blood pressure, and sugar level.

Those who would like to have their blood sugar tested must refrain from eating and drinking water and any fluids from midnight of Sept. 6 up to the time of their scheduled check up the following day. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 04, 2000

CPA rolls back airport fees

The Commonwealth Ports Authority on Saturday decided to roll back existing airport departure facility charge from $8 to $5.79 per passenger, a development that resulted from a series of discussions between CPA officials and CNMI signatory airlines representatives. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the rollback will result to substantial savings on the part of the airline companies without adverse impact on CPA's capabilities to meet its airport bond indenture.

Teno signs law expanding weapons control

Giving minors access to guns is now a crime in the CNMI, punishable with up to a month in prison and fine of not more than $1,000 under a law signed last Friday. Public Law 12-17, otherwise known as the Minor Children Firearms Control Act of 2000, also requires gun owners to secure their weapons away from children. A violation constitutes a $500 fine and a three-day jail sentence.

Gov't agencies gather for Labor Day festivities

The Commonwealth paid tribute yesterday to hardworking members of its local workforce as the whole community joined the Labor Day 2000 festivities at the American Memorial Park. The event drew close to 1,500 government employees with their families for a lineup of fun-filled activities held throughout the day.

September 04, 2001

AGO recommends closure of 52 'sex houses'

The Attorney General's Office is recommending the revocation of the business permits of at least 52 licensed establishments on Saipan that were found to have been secretly operating a prostitution den. Tourist-Related Crime Prevention Task Force Chair and Attorney General Herb Soll disclosed government lawyers have already petitioned to revoke the business permits of the 52 establishments. The recommendation came following a series of investigations against the proliferation of sex trade in the Western Garapan area.

School enforces anti-dropout program

Educators are rallying to eliminate the high incidence of student dropout in the Northern Marianas by addressing the issue at the earliest, most crucial stage: At the lower grade levels. The Garapan Elementary School, led by Principal Juan L. Babauta, over the weekend took strides to strengthen its hold on students through a Megaskills Workshop that aimed to make the best out of student learning.

Rota bird nearing extinction

The Rota bridled white-eye, a bird which is endemic to Rota, is feared to be nearing extinction. This prompted the United States' Department of the Interior to determine with finality its inclusion on the list of endangered species protected by legislation. This developed as the US Navy recently admitted that there has been a decrease in bird population on Farallon de Medinilla and the entire Northern Marianas.

September 04, 2002

Due to budget deficit, Legislature may close down

The CNMI government has reached its $193 million limit as of August 28 last week, prompting House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider yesterday to declare that the lower chamber may have to close down starting today. Even as he was speaking, a letter arrived from Gov. Juan N. Babauta, saying that he need not do that since the money allotted to the lower chamber has not been impounded yet and remains available for expenditure by the lawmakers.

Govt employees given top honors

Gov. Juan N. Babauta challenged all CNMI employees to improve on their tasks and continuously commit services to the public, as he led the awarding of this year's most outstanding public servants at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. Babauta, together with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, recognized the exemplary contributions of close to 4,000 government employees in the delivery of public and social services to the community.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

September 4, thru September 10, 2008

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Gustav's landfall

Hurricane Gustav wasn't as big a test as it could have been. The first major storm to roar across the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 had everyone scrambling. No one was taking any chances this go-round. And government authorities and the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast appear to have passed.

Local, state and federal officials moved quickly as Gustav churned its way through the Gulf of Mexico. States of emergency were declared by President Bush that opened the spigot of federal money and equipment. The National Guard was mobilized early to safeguard the streets. Buses were called in to take those without transportation out of the storm's path. And as Gustav got closer, the warnings to the public got more blunt. "You need to be scared," said New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin. "You need to get your butts out of New Orleans." By the time Gustav's winds whipped the Louisiana coast, the Crescent City was a virtual ghost town.

According to the Red Cross, there were 45,000 people in shelters in 10 states Sunday night compared with 30,000 people in five states when Katrina hit. Luckily, Gustav was not nearly as bad as everyone had feared. It made landfall as a Category 2 storm Monday morning 72 miles southwest of New Orleans and slowed to a Category 1 menace by the afternoon. Trees were downed. Power went out in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. And some levees were overtopped. But there were none of the catastrophic levee failures that doomed New Orleans three years ago.

For their part, the Republicans gathered in St. Paul, Minn., for their nominating convention were right to heed Sen. John McCain's call to curtail partisan activities and turn their attention to those hunkered down on the Gulf Coast. It's uncertain if or when the convention schedule will be revived. But it is to be hoped that Mr. McCain will have his chance to make his case to the country before the week is over.

We hope that dodging this bullet won't make either Gulf Coast residents or government authorities complacent about future storms. Vigilance is still required. Also, we're just through phase one of Gustav. Phase two will be searching for those who stayed behind and might need help and looking for structural failures that could lead to more danger. The need for caution cannot be overstated. Everyone thought New Orleans was relatively fine after Katrina's winds stopped howling. Things seem relatively okay now that Gustav has moved inland. We'll know better Tuesday.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

BROOKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH 8/08
WHAT HAPPENED, YOU ASK?... THE BANK FORECLOSED ON HER SHOE, AND NOW SHE AND ALL HER KIDS ARE LIVING IN A GIANT SHOEBOX UNDER A BRIDGE.

Politics-not-as-usual

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

It's turning out to be an interesting election year in the U.S. To tell you the truth, we weren't really impressed with either choice, and it doesn't help that we can't even vote for president. Obama has good stage presence and can rally up a crowd, but his "change" rhetoric and platitudes lack substance. Even though McCain has a lot of political experience, it doesn't work to his favor since it makes him appear to be one of the politics-as-usual, good old boys who's helped to get the country into the mess we're experiencing.

Obama has effectively capitalized on that angle by regularly breathing McCain's and Bush's name in the same sentence, and warning that a vote for McCain is a continuation of the policies of a president with an all-time low approval rating. With Obama's rock star popularity—the stage at his acceptance speech at Invesco field in Denver was reportedly constructed by the same people who built Britney Spears' last concert set—and his cult-like following, John McCain decided to make a Hail Mary pass with his VP selection.

His pick of Alaska governor, Sarah Palin is both a risky and strategic choice that has the mainstream media buzzing about the self-described "hockey mom." Her biography, *Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment on Its Ear*, describes how she became a long-shot candidate for governor demanding higher ethical standards in her state. The then 42-year-old small-town mayor of Wasilla, Alaska, beat a sitting governor in the Republican primary election by wide margins and a former governor in the general election to become Alaska's youngest governor and first female chief executive.

The Democrat's objections over her lack of foreign affairs and leadership experience is basically the Republican's same criticism of Obama; except that Palin has owned a business, managed a small town as mayor, and been governor for two years, while Obama hasn't even managed a Dairy Queen.

Palin has skyrocketed from national obscurity to international headlines with her acceptance as vice presidential candidate. Although not the first female to be chosen as a VP running mate (Geraldine Ferraro was Mondale's VP choice in 1984), she breaks the mold in many ways of your typical politician. Both Obama and Biden are lawyers with their JD law degrees and impressive credentials. Sarah Palin graduated with a BS in journalism from Idaho State University, with a minor in political science. She has the distinction of being both a "jock" and a beauty queen, winning the Alaska small-school basketball championship while captain of the team, and winning the title of Miss Wasilla and finishing second in the Miss Alaska beauty pageant. She even had a stint as a sports reporter for Anchorage television stations.

Some of the harshest criticism of Palin may actually become her greatest appeal to the average voter. Both McCain and Obama have been accused of being "elitists" and out of touch with the common person. Palin grew up in Wasilla, Alaska (population 6,500). She is the mother of five children, with her oldest joining the Army and getting ready to deploy to Iraq and her youngest born just five months ago while she was governor.

Palin is lauded by the pro-life community for her decision to have her baby, even though early testing revealed the fetus had Down's syndrome. She has actively gone after corruption in Alaska, and she followed through on a campaign promise to auction former Governor Murkowski's state-funded jet on eBay for $2.1 million. Palin hasn't been afraid to make tough choices, and she has been rewarded with an 80 percent approval rating in her state.

Even though Palin and Hillary Clinton are polar opposites in many of their values and views, some of Hillary's supporters feel she was dissed when Obama did not choose her as his VP running mate. It will be interesting to see how many feminists overlook their disdain for McCain to ensure that Sarah Palin makes history as the first female to become vice president, and possibly president. Given McCain's age, 72, Palin could only be a heartbeat away from the Oval Office. It will also be interesting to see the coverage that the liberal, mainstream media gives her, considering her conservative views on abortion and gay marriage.

So Obama chose a politics-as-usual sidekick, Biden, so he can take back the country with his mantra of "change," while McCain is a politics-as-usual politico who decided to take the country forward with his unexpected choice for a running mate. This may have trumped Obama by shaking things up a bit with a potential VP who doesn't just talk about change, but has a track record of real positive changes in Alaska. Like we say, it has at least spiced up the race to the White House. May the best man …er, woman win.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CS1: Culture Studies One

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

From post-9/11 emerged the language and rationale for culture wars. The Islamic jihad became the promotional gimmick of the fundamentalist imams, which delighted the fundamentalist in Jesus' haven to no end. With the collapse of the Evil Empire, and the emergence of the Axis of Evil, nothing short of bringing about the onset of Armageddon tempted the core policies of GWB Neoconservatives.

The history of Europe is studded with the cyclical occurrence of the unmanageable differences in life's understandings and the accompanying clash of symbols that tugged at the deepest chambers of the Indo-Aryan soul.

What we now refer to as religion is the organizing force that Latins call *religare,* "to fasten loose parts into a coherent whole." Cultural anthropologists view comparative religion as a tool of determining the development of fundamental life responses. We also have the interaction of people and the environment from which certain behavior had evolved. Cultural geography is a discipline that tracts the varied cultural nuances that formed civilizations in specific geographical locations and ethnic groups.

Sixth grade students learn that the production of surplus food triggers the rise of a civilization. For 8,000 years, empires have risen and fallen, and contemporary cultural geographer Jared Diamond contends that the collapse of civilization results from the neglect of the ecological environment from which it derived its support and sustenance.

This series identified the basic drive for survival and the processes that extract value from resources, produce goods and service, and distribute the same in response to perceived human needs and wants, are the economic dimension in life.

The drive to be social, to bring order where there is chaos, to promote justice where there is adjudication of differences, and to ensure well-being/well-doing for everyone where access and benefits in rights and responsibilities are inequitable, is the political domain.

The drive for meaning bleeds significance to both the economic and political dimensions of society. This is about consciousness, how children are led to rites of passages and elders are honored into their sunset years with the drumbeat of life and death. Art, icons, paintings, songs and dances hold communities together. This is the cultural dimension, the glue that cements the whole social process together.

Three drives and their corresponding dynamics constitute the economic, political and cultural dimensions that is universal in every society, the subject of this weeklong reflection before school opens.

"It's our culture," has been a convenient excuse used by some of our wayward youth to justify their chewing betel nut with tobacco and lime, and even smoking Mary Jane's reefers. We mean something broader than that. We do not, however, wish to imply that culture is separate from economics and politics. Instead, it is culture that injects meaning and intentionality into economic and political commonality.

When a social unit seeks wisdom, educates and nurtures its young through family and community, and touches the depths of life through stories, art and symbols, it effectively and easily keeps the economic and political processes in balance. Sought wisdom consists of the useful skills, accumulated knowledge, and expressed final meanings drawn from past experiences and conveyed into the future through many forms of transmittal means and methods.

A social unit develops communal styles that define roles, preserve learning and research the new. Marriage has been the communal form that maintained covenants and determined sexual mores, injected the sense of intentionality through common vision and mission, and provided rationale for the creation of budgets and expenditures.

Language, social art and religion have freighted the values and beliefs that bound social units together. People communicate through words and images; social art mirrors a community's experience and creativity; religion, or any organized form of seeking the depth, height and breath of the human spirit, unifies the common task of survival (economic) and imbues the social organizations of extended families and communities their *raison d'être* (political).

A bunch of industrious bees in a well-organized beehive does not a culture make. It is the bees being self-conscious of itself, or humans conscious of their consciousness that makes culture, and gives birth to spirit. In our time, this self-consciousness has come to be popularly expressed as experiencing the awe as the awed-ones savoring an awesome reality, which supports, sustains, and nurtures life.

The radical awakening ushered by the paradigm shift occasioned by 9/11 has made it clear that every culture in the planet is undergoing a profound transformation. Those who think that we can preserve the idyllic innocence of the "primitive" are whistling in the wind. Indigenous cultures are not as interested in conserving a pristine state as they are eager to participate in the affairs that determine their destiny. The paradigm shift in technology, settlement, communications and transportation have transformed the universe of our experience.

Two symbols within the last 50 years have captured our global imagination, particularly in the United States. First, there was the moonwalk. One can look at this simply as an advance in rocketry and non-gravitational technology as some have done; we can also look at it as a liberation from age-old constraints that focused on our limits and fed the fires of our cynicism and despair. We discovered new possibilities of the human spirit. We realized that the future was open beyond the either the apocalyptic and/or utopian determinisms of Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus, and Karl Marx/ Friedrich Engels.

A second symbol is the earthrise, that photo of the blue planet rising above the lunar landscape, seemingly oblivious of all the divisions and conflicts we have etched on it in mapping its reality into our common minds and societal consciousness. We awakened to a real common cause, the survival of the planet itself as a prerequisite to the survival of the human race.

So, guess who is coming to dinner? This paper's front-page picture the other day of the Moslem faithful after their ablutions in abject ritual of supplication not in the Middle East but in our neighborhood is driving the ecumenical reality beyond the boundaries that even Pope John XXXIII would have imagined. The perspectives of the strange bedfellows of GWB and the Pew Trust Foundation aligned against the equally strange soapbox of John B. Joyner, Ph.D., and the federalization-beleaguered Capital Hill administrators made today's Chamber of Commerce meeting interesting.

There is a love feast of a global culture in the making that the *Taotao tano/Refaluwasch, Taotao tasi/Remetau* is hosting on Saipan. It would be a pity if we engage in that process from the perspective of fear and defense, rather than of hope and celebration. That is our choice, and making conscious choices is what culture is about.

Letter to the Editor

Policy differences with Rep. Sablan

Dear Representative Sablan:

You and I have vastly different positions with respect to labor policies in the Commonwealth. I spent over five years at the Labor Department as a hearing officer. My experience in handling cases involving both local and foreign employers and foreign workers persuaded me that our guest worker system was being manipulated by employers and employees in ways that were unfair to our U.S. citizen workers and were bringing discredit to the Commonwealth. I spent two years as a member of the 15th Legislature getting a comprehensive labor reform bill passed, which was signed into law as P.L. 15-108 last November. I have spent the last six months as Deputy Secretary of Labor implementing this law and working to make our system better. I strongly disagree with the labor policies you advocate, and I have said so publicly. It is regrettable that you have now chosen to attack me personally because of our differences over labor policies.

I make the following observations so we are clear about what those differences are:

OVERSTAYERS: You believe that foreign workers who have not been renewed by the employer who brought them to the Commonwealth, and who cannot find an employer to whom to transfer, should be allowed to remain in the Commonwealth as unemployed persons. I disagree with your position. Since 1983, our guest worker laws have required that aliens who come to the Commonwealth remain productively employed. There are good policy reasons for this requirement. Unemployed foreign workers require social services that create a financial burden on the Commonwealth; they often work without permits and undermine legitimate businesses that comply with the law and hire U.S. citizen workers. For that reason, the Labor Department publishes Overstayer Lists so that persons who are affected may come forward to correct the record or leave the Commonwealth voluntarily so as to preserve their right to re-enter.

NO-JOB SPONSORSHIPS: You believe that if a foreign worker pays to make an arrangement under which someone sponsors that worker by saying they are "employed"—although the sponsor has no real job for that worker and that worker does no real work for that sponsor—that the worker should be able to remain in the Commonwealth. I disagree with your position. "No-job sponsorships" are a fraud on the Commonwealth. In 2008 alone, the Director of Labor has denied about 1,000 applications, many for "no-job sponsorships." Under a typical "no-job sponsorship" arrangement, the foreign worker pays the Labor Department fees, pays the bonding fee (for a bond that may not exist), and pays phantom taxes on wages not paid so that the Department of Finance will not crack down on the employer. The foreign worker then goes into the underground economy and finds his or her own job, or simply "retires" to live with a spouse or partner who works. The people who engage in "no-job sponsorships" on both the employer side and the worker side have evaded Commonwealth law, made false statements to the department, and sometimes testified falsely under oath. The Commonwealth's purpose in permitting guest workers to enter to work is to support the economy. People who engage in "no-job sponsorships" undermine that purpose; they do not support the economy. They simply seek the privilege of residence in the Commonwealth for which many, if not most, cannot qualify under visa rules.

TRANSFERS: You believe that there should be a "free market" in which there is no approval required when a foreign worker transfers from one job to another, so that a foreign worker can basically set up a new business and work for himself or herself if they want to do that. I disagree with your position. Under P.L. 15-108, all transfers must be approved by a hearing officer. The requirement of a careful but speedy review is very important in assuring that each foreign worker has a legitimate job with an employer who does not have past problems that might lead to taking advantage of the worker. Since the implementation of P.L. 15-108 in January 2008, this review process has resulted in numerous transfers being denied after a hearing on the ground that the proposed transfer did not comply with Commonwealth law. These transfer denials may involve illegal conduct on the part of the employer, the worker, or both. Every worker whose transfer is affected by reasons having to do with an ineligible employer is given another opportunity to find a suitable employer and transfer. There are good policy reasons for the requirement of administrative review of transfers. Transfers to employers who have previously exploited workers or who have no financial means to pay the worker is likely to lead to more labor complaints in the future, which require the department's resources to adjudicate.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE REGARDLESS OF WORK STATUS: You believe that foreign workers who have been in the Commonwealth for more than five years, regardless of whether they have worked during that time, should have permanent residence in the Commonwealth. You even introduced a bill to try to achieve such objective. I disagree with your position, and the Labor Department strongly opposed your bill. I firmly believe that the House's 15-2 decision to adopt the Committee Report to shelve your bill last Friday, August 22, 2008, is the right decision.

FOREIGN WORKERS WITH U.S. CITIZEN CHILDREN: You believe that any foreign worker who is given permission to enter the Commonwealth to work and has a child while in the Commonwealth should be given a free pass to remain in the Commonwealth forever. I disagree with your position. The U.S. does not allow this, nor does any other country. Why, then, should the Commonwealth allow this? The citizenship of children does not affect the work status of their parents.

FEDERALIZATION: You believe the federal government will solve our problems in the guest worker area. I disagree with your position. Our experience with the federal government during Trust Territory times—not all that long ago—was very disappointing. The U.S. has a very substantial guest worker problem of its own, which it has not yet solved. Immigration reform is stalled in the U.S. There is no reason to believe that federal officials are more capable than Commonwealth officials with respect to running the labor system in the Commonwealth. In my view, federalization will hurt foreign

See POLICY on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

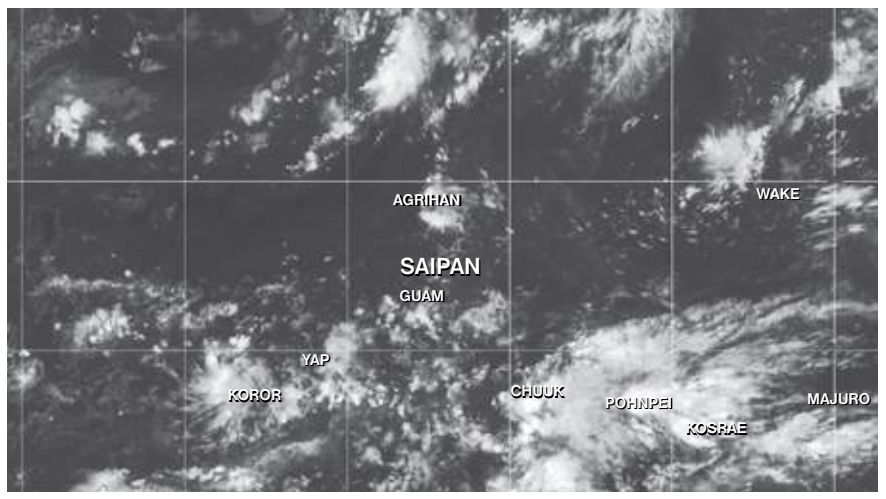
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲64	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84	▼64
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼47
Miami	Rain	▲89	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼70
Osaka	Showers	▲84	▼72
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼55
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼69
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼63
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:20PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends eastward from 7N130E to a weak circulation centered just north of Koror at 8N135E then turns northeastward across the Marianas to end at 25N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis over Palau and Yap but just south of Guam within 200 miles of a line from 7N131E to 11N149E and over Agrihan between 17N and 21N from 145E to 147E. Converging winds south of the trough axis are triggering scattered showers well south of Koror near the equator or south of a line from 3N130E to 3N135E to 1N139E. A trade-wind disturbance reaches northeastward from EQ150E to 3N153E and turns north-northeastward to end at 15N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are found over a large area including Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. This area is within 280 miles of a line from 3N150E to 10N163E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kwajalein, Majuro but southeast of Kosrae between 2N and 6N from 165E to 173E. An upper-level trough stretches northeastward from 16N156E through two upper lows, one centered west of Wake Island near 19N160E and another one centered northeast of Wake near 22N169E to beyond 25N172E. Scattered showers are found along the trough axis north of Wake Island within 90 miles of a line from 21N162E to 25N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:35AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:44AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:39PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:08PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:05AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:05AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:05AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:05AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:34AM	9:14PM
Friday	10:25AM	9:56PM
Saturday	11:18AM	10:41PM
Sunday	12:10PM	11:29PM
Monday	11:03PM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Arrogant and incompetent

Those are the only terms I can think of to sufficiently describe CUC's (Manny B. Sablan) statement of yesterday that it was "canceling efforts to obtain renewable energy sources for the NMI." By law, the so-called "Green Law," passed by the Legislature two years ago, CUC is supposed to install 10 percent "renewable" energy sources by Dec. 31 of *this* year and double it every two years up to 80 percent by 2014.

I've been saying all along that such a schedule would be impossible for *any* utility to follow, but for CUC to simply say, as if it were some omnipotent entity not subject to the law of the land, that they just were not going to do it—in fact, do *any* of it—is beyond belief.

To think that the basis of such a statement, apparently by Mr. Manny B. Sablan, was that "RFP's for renewable energy plans were flawed" is hard to swallow. And he goes even further to state that "there are no further plans to re-issue the RFPs." Just what does that mean?

Could it be that CUC has taken the stance that it will do what it wants—and *only* what it wants? So what if the issuance of a proper RFP is difficult or time-consuming? That's part of your job! I believe that the development of proper renewable or alternate energy sources should be a *major* point of emphasis at CUC, not simply thrown away like so much garbage just because there is so much incompetence in CUC that no- one has been able to even write a proper and acceptable RFP.

And what does CUC have to say about the other parts of the "Green Law?" Specifically, what about "net-metering?" Are you going to just throw that away, too? Looks like it, since you haven't even taken the first basic steps yet—after two years and well beyond the mandated deadline! This is so simple. As said on TV: "Even a cave-man could do it." Net-metering requirements, application forms, contracts and everything else needed are readily available on the Internet, in generic format, ready to adapt to the NMI. But it now appears that CUC just doesn't want to do anything for the people, even when mandated by law.

That's nothing short of arrogant and incompetent.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Let's give it a try

The other day's front page of the *Saipan Tribune* "Bush pushes marine monuments" is really good news! For one, our northern islands' waters will be protected. Young adults like myself will be able to enjoy the island's natural beauty and so many others will be able to appreciate our three northern islands.

I've read some letters to the editor opposing the idea. But how can we know if we don't give it a try? Change is good, you know. Most of these writers are old-timers. They know too much about our islands and the waters that surround them. *It's our time now. Our generation wants this monument!*

I plan to major in marine biology and study our islands and waters, but I can't do it on my own. I need young indigenous people to help me with this. I honestly feel it's the young generation's turn now. We the young indigenous want a chance to learn about our islands. I want to see it, study it, smell the air around it, feel the waters that surround it, and enjoy the beauty of our islands and waters. I'm sure a lot of young indigenous feel the same way.

Hey, you parents! We are just getting started. Give our generation a chance. Change is good. Let's all work together to support our marine monument.

Leisha P. Camacho
Garapan, Saipan

POLICY

From Page 11

workers. They will be deported without regard to their contribution to the Commonwealth, and they cannot qualify for U.S. visas. You know that the availability of H visas will expire quite quickly by 2014 and then the Commonwealth will be competing against the entire continental U.S. for these visas. That does not hold out the prospect for more than a very few foreign workers to remain in the Commonwealth. The federal officials from DHS who visited recently expressed little likelihood that the U.S. would even consider processing H visas for the Commonwealth's foreign workers now, so maximum uncertainty lies ahead.

ALLEGATION OF BIAS: I take strong exception to your allegation that I am biased against foreign national workers. While I refuse to dignify your allegation by giving it more attention than it deserves, I will say that while I worked as a hearing officer, Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto sent Dr. Jack Tenorio, Secretary of Labor at the time, a letter commending me for my "proactive" work in assisting foreign national workers. I had a good professional relationship with employees of the Federal Ombudsman's Office. Moreover, I received several Appreciation Certificates from the Philippine Consulate in recognition of the assistance I rendered to the foreign national workers from the Philippines over the years. Foreign worker advocates routinely came to me for assistance in interacting with other units in the Labor Department and Division of Immigration whenever they encountered difficulties that they could not easily resolve. My record speaks for itself. Just because I favor strong enforcement of our Labor laws and don't agree with your views on Labor policies does not mean that I am biased against foreign national workers—no matter how often you or the special-interest groups you represent repeat this allegation.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE LABOR DEPARTMENT: I have been very open with members of the Legislature about the actions taken and policies developed by the Department of Labor. I have sent you (and other legislators) five Interim Reports on the implementation of P.L. 15-108 since re-joining the Labor Department in February 2008. I also invited members of your committee to visit the department. When you visited the Labor Department just recently, I asked you if you had any questions or concerns. You raised several issues, but none of the matters you set out in your letter except your misperception that there are termites in our landlord's attic. I have also made myself available to members of the Legislature. You have never raised with me any of the concerns expressed in your letter. I first learned of your letter to the Secretary when I read about it in the newspaper Saturday morning. It would appear that you released your letter to the press first, and then sent it to the department. All of this hinders a free flow of information between the department and the Legislature.

I hope that we can set politics aside and work together to make sure that U.S. citizen workers, Commonwealth employers, and foreign national workers are all treated fairly. The people of the Commonwealth and those who call the CNMI "home" deserve nothing less.

Cinta M. Kaipat
Deputy Secretary
CNMI Department of Labor

Business

Insurers estimate Gustav claims as high as $10B

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP)—Residential and commercial insurance claims could total $4 billion to $10 billion. More than a million customers, including some refineries, lack electricity. And retailers are gearing up for a burst of sales once residents who fled the Gulf Coast return.

Snapshots of Hurricane Gustav's economic impact revealed Tuesday that the storm was hardly as damaging as feared—particularly for the region's vast network of energy facilities. But it will be days, if not weeks, before business as usual returns.

While Gustav's force paled in comparison to Hurricane Katrina, which cost insurers $41 billion, oil workers, utility crews, fishermen and other business owners fanned out across the Gulf Coast Tuesday to assess damage and make preparations to restart operations.

Outside a Lowe's in Houma, La., 34-year-old sales manager Britt Coyle said there was only minor damage to the store, which he expected to be open on Wednesday to sell chainsaws, generators and other necessities to residents returning home.

For the moment, there were no customers in sight, and power outages in the area were widespread.

At the nearby Jolly Inn restaurant, the owners had a diesel generator powering their refrigerator in order to prevent thousands of dollars worth of food from spoiling. Forty-five-year-old Denise Prosperie-Fritch, whose family owns the Jolly Inn and rode out Gustav inside the restaurant, said the establishment is insured but that they only have one or two days worth of diesel fuel left to keep the food cold.

"We will be addressing our hardest-hit policyholders first," Elizabeth Stelzer, a spokeswoman for Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., said. "Those homes with a tree through a wall, an exposed roof, or other claims in which the home has become uninhabitable are the priority."

Meanwhile, utilities started dealing with the task of restoring power. Utility giant Entergy Corp. said 826,000 customers, mostly in Louisiana, were without power. A Royal Dutch Shell-owned refinery in Convent lacked power late Tuesday, as did the company's chemical plant in Geismar. The power outages also brought down cellular and Internet service in parts of Louisiana

AP

Hurricane Gustav evacuees Fabiola Ribeiro, left, and her mother, Cassia Ribeiro, with their dog Nina, wait for gas and the opportunity to return home at a gas station in Slidell, La., Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

Oil's retreat not enough to sustain stock rally

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street succumbed to its ongoing angst Tuesday, giving up a sharp advance and turning moderately lower after falling oil prices failed to calm the market's nervousness about the economy and the financial sector.

The Dow Jones industrial average initially surged by nearly 250 points as oil prices dropped as low as $105.46 a barrel on reports that the Gulf Coast and its oil facilities were spared heavy damage from Hurricane Gustav. But the positive effect of the storm's outcome on stocks was short-lived, and the blue chips ended the day down 26.

Falling commodities prices caused the stocks of oil and metals companies to sink, dragging on the broader market, and the technology sector was also weak. Furthermore, crude oil eventually lifted off its lows of the day, settling near $110 a barrel and signaling to some traders that oil has the potential to rebound as quickly as it sold off.

"We could have another storm announced tomorrow, and it'd be back up again," said Anthony Conroy, managing director and head trader for BNY ConvergEx Group.

The financial sector was stronger than usual on Tuesday, but not enough to lift the stock market. Investors remain fearful that a weak housing market and tight credit environment will keep racking up losses for the nation's major money centers.

"The one problem with financials is that maybe the Street has a good handle on subprime, but they do not have a good handle on commercial or industrial lending," said Philip S. Dow, managing director of equity strategy at RBC Wealth Management.

Manufacturing shrinks in August, construction down

NEW YORK (AP)—For the nation's lumber companies, automakers, home builders and other manufacturers, the final half of 2008 may be as sluggish as the first.

Slow consumer spending and high gas prices have stalled manufacturing, and even some bright spots are expected to dim. Exports, which have propped up the sector, may slide as economies overseas slow. Meanwhile, construction spending is at a seven-year low that has spread from housing to nonresidential projects.

The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday its reading for the nation's manufacturers fell to 49.9 in August from 50 in July, matching economists' expectations, according to Thomson/IFR. A reading below 50 signals contraction, while a reading above 50 signals growth.

The index has hovered near the 50 "boom-bust" line all year and industry groups say they expect similarly weak growth for the remainder of the year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Coca-Cola offers to buy Huiyuan in $2.5B deal

HONG KONG (AP)—The Coca-Cola Co., the world's biggest beverage company, has offered to buy major juicemaker China Huiyuan Juice Group Ltd. in a deal worth as much as $2.5 billion in cash, the companies said Wednesday. Under the deal, Coca-Cola's Atlantic Industries subsidiary would buy the Chinese company's shares for HK$12.20 ($1.56) each along with all outstanding convertible bonds and options, Huiyuan said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange. The price for Huiyuan's shares is almost triple their last closing price, HK$4.14. "This acquisition will deliver value to our shareholders and provide a unique opportunity to strengthen our business in China," said Muhtar Kent, chief executive of Coca-Cola, which has operated in China since 1979. Huiyuan shares, down more than 50 percent this year, were trading at HK$10.98 early Wednesday.

Report: KDB seeking 25 percent of Lehman Brothers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—State-owned Korea Development Bank has made a proposal to acquire 25 percent of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers for as much as 6 trillion won ($5.3 billion), a newspaper reported Wednesday. The Chosun Ilbo, South Korea's largest mass-circulation daily, reported that KDB said in the proposal that it would buy the stake by forming a consortium with other South Korean banks and is awaiting a response from Lehman. The paper quoted a financial source it did not identify. KDB, which was South Korea's sixth-largest bank by assets as of the end of last year, said it had no comment on the report.

Struggling Alcatel-Lucent names new top executives

PARIS (AP)—At Britain's BT Group, Ben Verwaayen was lauded for transforming the money-losing phone company into a profitable and aggressive leader in broadband Internet access. Alcatel-Lucent will be looking for him to match that performance when he comes in as part of a new management tandem tasked with reversing a six-quarter earnings slide that has rung up 4.8 billion euros ($7 billion) in losses. The world's largest manufacturer of fixed-line telecommunications gear Tuesday appointed Verwaayen as its new chief executive, and former EADS co-CEO Philippe Camus as its new chairman. Verwaayen, who is Dutch, and Camus, who is French, replace the U.S. and French executives behind the $11.4 billion deal that combined France's Alcatel and U.S.-based Lucent Technologies two years ago. Verwaayen replaces CEO Patricia Russo effective immediately, while Camus will replace Serge Tchuruk—long Alcatel's top executive—next month.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,130.500 Down 64.500 (-1.24%)
HONG KONG	20,657.62 Down 384.84 (-1.83%)
JAKARTA	2,124.08 Down 34,964 (-1.62%)
TOKYO	12,373.448 Up 6.195 (+0.18%)
K. LUMPUR	1,086.99 Down 13.51 (-1.23%)
MANILA	2,750.03 Up 41.78 (+1.54%)
SINGAPORE	2,724.27 Down 34.67 (-1.26%)
SEOUL	1,426.89 Up 19.75 (+1.40%)
BANGKOK	653.16 Down 6.35 (-0.96%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,516.92 -0.23%

S&P 1,277.581 -0.41%

NASDAQ 2,349.24 -0.77%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2061
British Pound	0.5634
Canadian Dollar	1.0718
Chinese Yuan	6.8524
Euro	0.6917
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8094
Indian Rupee	43.9750
Indonesian Rupiah	9,203.0000
Japanese Yen	108.8200
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4340
New Zealand Dollar	1.4780
Philippine Peso	46.5550
Singapore Dollar	1.4373
South Korean Won	1,148.5000
Swiss Franc	1.1095
Taiwan Dollar	31.8400
Thailand Baht	34.4500

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

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SEPT. 1-10, 2008

Customer Appreciation

Beef Spareribs 20# — $18.00/cs.

US Pork Adobo — $1.79/lb.

US Pork Feet 20# — $1.29/lb.

US Porkchop Endcut Family Pack — $1.79/lb.

Beef Finger Meat — $2.69/lb.

Bar-S Hotdog 1# 16 oz. — $1.15/lb.

Stewing Chicken — $1.19/lb.

Chicken Wingettes #5 Bag — $9.99/pk.

Turkey Drumstick — 99¢/lb.

Tilapia — $1.25/lb.

US Scallop — $9.50/lb.

Dragon Shrimp 1# 26/30 — $4.39/lb.

GROCERY

Sapporo Ichiban Case — $7.99/cs.

Gold Medal Flour 5 lb. — $2.39/ea.

Filma Cooking Oil 1 Gal. — $7.99/ea.

Tabasco 2 oz. — $1.29/ea.

Sky Flakes 850 g. — $4.09/ea.

Mezzetta Chili Peeper 16 oz. — $1.99/ea.

Teptip Coconut Oil 13.5 oz. — 70¢/ea.

Heinz Cider Vinegal 1 Gal. — $6.19/ea.

Capri Sun Cooler 10 ct. — $2.99/box

Nestea Mix with Sugar 81.2 oz. — $8.19/ea.

LouAna Peanut Oil 1 Gal. — $15.09/ea.

Carnation Coffeemate 16 oz. — $1.90/ea.

JAPAN FOOD

Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100/50g. Japan — $81.00/tin

Yours Lemon Powder 150 g.	$4.95/ea.
S&B Wasabi Powder 200 g.	$5.59/ea.
Shin Shin Sliced Ginger 7 g.	88¢/ea.

NON-FOOD

Sofitell Toilet Tissue 12 Roll	$4.79/ea.
Pampers Wipes 160 ct.	$6.25/ea.
Pampers Cruiser Size 3-6	$16.99/pk.

FROZEN

Pork Belly Roast	$1.79/lb.
Corned Beef Brisket	$1.99/lb.
Quail Family Pack 28 oz.	$9.50/ea.

PRODUCE

Cabbage Green	79¢/lb.
Potato Russet US	$1.09/lb.
Garlic Netted	$1.47/lb.
Lettuce Ice Berg	$1.12/lb.
Orange	91¢/lb.
Cucumber Local	75¢/lb.
US Extra Large Eggs	$2.99/ea.

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Budweiser Can 12oz. — Ice Cold $13.00/12 pk.

Miller Lite Can 12oz. — Ice Cold $12.50/12 pk.

Kahlua Liquere 700 ml.	$17.25/ea.
Santa Digna Merlot 750 ml.	$10.29/ea.
Sanwa Iichiko 900 ml. (Sochu)	$11.19/ea.
Japan Sochu 750 ml. (Sochu)	$9.19/ea.
Bizal Gold 750 ml. (Sochu)	$12.59/ea.
Zyunmai Karoyaka 2 Liter (Sake)	$16.29/ea.
Gekki Hon Hyunmai 750 ml. (Sake)	$12.68/ea.

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WESTERN UNION SERVICE AVAILABLE.

Nation

Republicans hail McCain, assail Obama

AMERICA VOTES

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Republicans assailed Barack Obama as the most liberal, least experienced White House nominee in history Tuesday night and enthusiastically extolled their own man John McCain as "ready to lead this nation." Delegates at the GOP National Convention rallied behind running mate Sarah Palin in the face of fresh controversy.

"Country matters more than party," declared Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the 2000 Democratic presidential nominee, making a prime time appeal from the Republicans' podium to disaffected Democrats and independents. Delegates booed heartily when he said Obama had voted to cut off funding "for our troops on the ground" in Iraq.

A parade of speakers, led by President Bush, hailed McCain, praising him as a war hero who endured years of torture in Vietnam and decades later risked his White House ambitions to support an unpopular Iraq war.

The Republican nominee-in-waiting campaigned in Pennsylvania and Ohio during the day, slowly making his way toward the convention city where the 72-year-old Arizona senator will deliver his formal acceptance speech on Thursday night.

Inside the convention hall, about two dozen men who were Vietnam prisoners with him a generation ago sparked chants of "USA, USA" when they were introduced to the delegates.

Bush, an unpopular president relegated to a relatively minor role at the convention, reprised the national security themes that propelled him to a second term as he spoke—briefly, by satellite from the White House. "We need a president who understands the lessons of Sept. 11, 2001," he said. "That to protect America, we must stay on offense, stop attacks before they happen and not wait to be hit again. The man we need is John McCain."

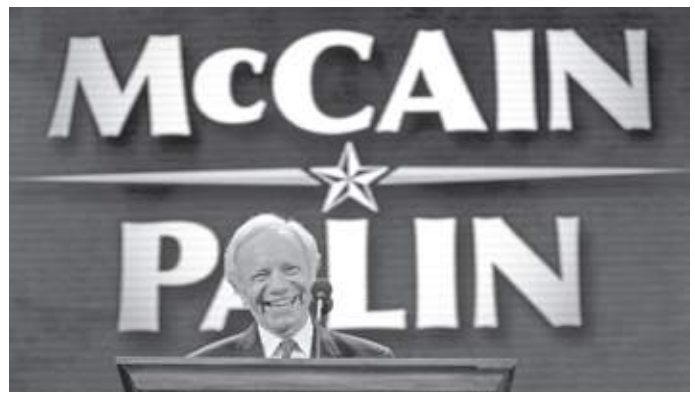
Former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson drew some of the loudest cheers of the night as he scoffed at Obama, the 47-year-old Illinois senator who is seeking to become the first black president.

"Democrats present a history-making nominee for president. History making in that he is the most liberal, most inexperienced nominee ever to run for president," Thompson said as delegates roared their agreement.

Like Lieberman, Thompson described Palin as a political maverick in the McCain mold.

Thompson delivered a particularly sharp defense of the Alaska governor. She is "from a small town, with small town values, but that's not good enough for those folks who are attacking her and her family."

He said McCain's decision to place her on the ticket "has the other side and their friends in the media in a state of panic."



AP

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., speaks during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

Other Republicans—delegates and luminaries alike—also defended Palin, who disclosed on Monday that her 17-year-old unmarried daughter is pregnant. In addition, a lawyer has been hired to represent the governor in an ethics-related controversy back home in Alaska.

After Gustav, will people heed warnings next time?

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Millions fled the Gulf Coast in fear of Hurricane Gustav, billed as the apocalyptic "mother of all storms." It didn't deliver. Now, with three other storms lining up in the Atlantic, some fear people might not listen next time.

As the first of the 2 million people who fled Gustav began to trickle home Tuesday from shelters, many grumbled about the food, the heat, the overcrowding, the uncertainty and the frustrating wait for the all-clear. Some evacuees, particularly in Texas, on the far fringes of the storm's path, suggested authorities overreacted in demanding they leave their homes.

"Next time, it's going to be bad because people who evacuated like us aren't going to evacuate," Catherine Jones, 53, of Silsbee, Texas, who spent three days on a cot at a church shelter with her disabled son. "They jumped the gun."

Emergency officials strongly defended the decision to evacuate coastal areas, saying that with something as unpredictable as a hurricane, it is better to be safe than sorry—a lesson driven home by Katrina, which killed 1,600 people in the U.S. in 2005, compared with nine deaths attributed to Gustav.

Officials noted that, yes, New Orleans' levees held, and Gustav struck only a glancing blow. But when trees fell on homes, power lines went down and roads were washed out, there was no one around to get hurt. And there was significant damage: Early insurance industry estimates put the expected damage to covered properties at anywhere from $2 billion to $10 billion. That's high, but well short of Katrina's $41 billion.

"The reasons you're not seeing dramatic stories of rescue is because we had a successful evacuation," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "The only reason we don't have more tales of people in grave danger is because everyone heeded the instructions to get out of town."

AP

Debra Peterson comforts her granddaughters as they wait in their car to return to New Orleans,La., in Slidell, La., Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

Southern US coast watches Tropical Storm Hanna

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Nervous residents rushed to buy plywood and generators while emergency officials in Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas weighed possible evacuations Tuesday as Tropical Storm Hanna was expected to shift toward a tough-to-predict landfall along the southern Atlantic coast by the end of the week.

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist declared a state of emergency as Hanna, downgraded from hurricane status Tuesday but with ample time to regain strength, was forecast to turn to the northwest from the Bahamas. Emergency officials in Georgia and South Carolina went into 24-hour alert mode.

In Savannah, which hasn't seen a direct hit from a major hurricane in more than a century, Janey Miley took her 15-year-old daughter to Home Depot at lunchtime Tuesday for an impromptu lesson in hurricane preparedness.

They waited in a busy checkout line with a 5-gallon gas can, a circular saw and 10 sheets of plywood in case they needed to board up the windows of their home on nearby Tybee Island. A steady flow of customers pushed carts stocked with everything from batteries to 5,000-watt generators.

Gonzales won't face charges for mishandling info

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department refused to prosecute former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales for improperly—and possibly illegally—storing in his office and home classified information about two of the Bush administration's most sensitive counterterrorism efforts.

Mishandling classified materials violates Justice Department regulations, and removing them from special secure facilities without proper authorization is a misdemeanor crime.

A report issued Tuesday by the Justice Department's inspector general says the agency decided not to press charges against Gonzales, who resigned under fire last year.

The report by Inspector General Glenn A. Fine found that Gonzales risked exposing at least some parts of the National Security Agency's terrorist surveillance program, as well as interrogations of terrorist detainees. Some aspects of the surveillance program explicitly referred to in the documents were "zealously protected" by the NSA, the report found.

Fine referred the case to the Justice Department's National Security Division to see if charges should be brought against Gonzales. But prosecutors dropped the case after an internal review that began earlier this year, said Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 dead, 2 wounded in Wash. state shooting spree

ALGER, Wash. (AP)—A terrifying shooting spree that stretched from a small northwest Washington town onto the state's busiest highway left six people dead and at least two more wounded on Tuesday. The dead included a Skagit County sheriff's deputy and the wounded included a Washington State Patrol trooper who was shot while trying to catch the shooter on Interstate 5, the State Patrol said. A suspect in the shootings, a recently released convict with a history of mental illness, has surrendered. State Department of Corrections officials identified the man as Isaac Zamora, 28, who had served a six-month Skagit County jail sentence for drug possession.

Great White offers $1M to settle fatal fire suits

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Members of the 1980s rock band whose pyrotechnics sparked a nightclub fire that killed 100 people have agreed to pay $1 million to survivors and victims' relatives, according to court papers filed Tuesday. The settlement offer from Great White is the latest stemming from the February 2003 fire at The Station nightclub in West Warwick. Roughly $175 million has now been offered by dozens of defendants to settle lawsuits over the blaze, which also injured more than 200 people and was the fourth-deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history. The band does not admit any wrongdoing as part of the settlement, which requires the approval of the more than 300 people suing, among other conditions.

Court won't stop Detroit mayor's removal hearing

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's chances of avoiding a state hearing that could cost him his job diminished by the hour Tuesday as a judge and an appeals court ruled against scrapping the proceedings. The mayor claims he can't get a fair shake from Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a fellow Democrat who is to convene a removal hearing Wednesday morning. His lawyers also attacked the law on the removal process but lost twice in court Tuesday The Detroit City Council asked Granholm to determine whether Kilpatrick misled members when he settled lawsuits with former police officers for $8.4 million; text messages that contradict the mayor's sworn denials of an extramarital affair were supposed to be kept secret as part of the deal.

Chicago students skip school in funding protest

NORTHFIELD, Ill. (AP)—More than 1,000 Chicago public school students boycotted the first day of classes Tuesday in a protest over school funding and instead rode buses more than 30 miles north to try to enroll in a wealthy suburban district. About 1,100 elementary students and 150 high school students from Chicago filled out enrollment applications Tuesday in the New Trier district in Northfield, New Trier Superintendent Linda Yonke said. Boycott organizers acknowledged the move was largely symbolic: Students would have to pay tuition to attend a school outside their home district. But the boycott of the nation's third-largest school district was to continue, with organizers planning to set up impromptu classrooms led by retired teachers in the lobbies of area businesses.

Asia/World

Thai protesters flout premier's state of emergency

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's embattled leader struggled to keep the peace and his grip on power after declaring a state of emergency that was openly flouted by thousands of anti-government protesters in the capital.

Protesters on Wednesday sat on the lawn and throughout the vast open area around the sprawling grounds of the prime minister's office, known as Government House. They listened to speakers denounced Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and vowed to stay put until he resigned.

"The state of emergency has ended up drawing a bigger crowd rather than scaring protesters away," said Sirinan Yodkongkha, a 45-year-old businesswoman.

While Samak sought Tuesday to tamp down newly violent unrest pitting pro- and anti-government protesters, he also was hit by an electoral commission finding that could disband his party and bar him from politics.

Samak said he had no choice but to impose emergency rule in Bangkok after a week of political tensions exploded into overnight rioting and street fighting between the largely prosperous urban protesters and government supporters, mainly from the country's impoverished rural majority. The fighting left one person dead and dozens injured.

AP

A banner is seen near the Government House, one day after the declaration of state of emergency in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008.

His decree gives the military the right to restore order, allows authorities to suspend civil liberties, bans public gatherings of more than five people and bars the media from reporting news that "causes panic."

Samak and the army chief, Gen. Anupong Paochinda, both said authorities viewed emergency rule as a last resort and stressed they wanted to avoid violence.

"I did it to solve the problems of the country," Samak said in a televised news conference at a military headquarters in Bangkok. "I had no other choice. The softest means available was an emergency decree to end the situation using the law."

At a separate news conference, Anupong said troops in Bangkok's streets will be armed only with riot shields and batons.

"If the military has to get involved, it will not use force and will be on the people's side," Anupong said. He dismissed speculation the army was positioning itself to seize power again, less than two years after a 2006 coup.

"If the military uses force to stage a coup, it will create a lot more problems," the general said.

Israeli Mossad let Nazi Mengele get away

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli agents who kidnapped Nazi mastermind Adolf Eichmann from Argentina in 1960 found the notorious death camp doctor Josef Mengele but let him get away, one of the operatives said Tuesday.

Mengele was one of the most wanted Nazi war criminals, a doctor who conducted cruel experiments on twins and dwarves at the Auschwitz concentration camp and killed children with lethal injections. He selected prisoners who would be subjected to his experiments and sent others straight to their death in gas chambers.

Rafi Eitan, now an 81-year-old Israeli Cabinet minister, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he and other Mossad agents located Mengele living in a Buenos Aires apartment with his wife at the time of Eichmann's capture in 1960.

Mengele

But they decided that trying to nab him would risk sabotaging the capture of Eichmann, who implemented Adolf Hitler's "final solution" to kill European Jewry and was deemed a more important target.

It was known that Mengele was living in Buenos Aires around the time of Eichmann's capture. But Eitan's comments indicated the Israelis were closer to him than had been previously thought—and shed light on why they decided to abandon an attempt to catch him.

"When you have one operation, you're taking a certain level of risk. If you're doing a second operation at the same time, you double the risk ... not only for the second operation but for the first one, as well," Eitan said.

Eichmann was responsible for implementing Hitler's plan that exterminated 6 million Jews during World War II. After his capture, he was spirited to Israel, tried and executed.

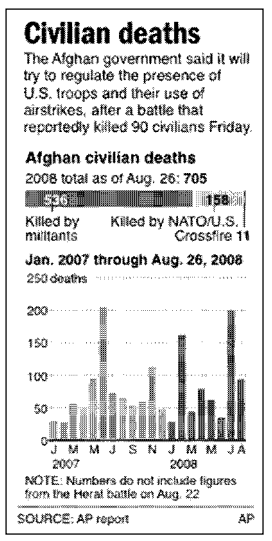
US probe disputes civilian deaths in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A U.S. investigation released Tuesday disputed a U.N. report that found "credible evidence" that up to 90 civilians died in a raid on a western Afghan village, saying an after-battle assessment found most of the victims were Taliban fighters.

The military probe found that up to seven civilians and between 30 and 35 Taliban militants were killed in an operation in Azizabad village in the early morning hours of Aug. 22. The U.N. backed a finding by the Afghan government that all the victims were civilians.

The competing claims illustrate the difficulty of determining how many civilians fall victim in a war fought in distant mountains and densely populated villages.

U.S. officials say they face significant challenges both in identifying Taliban fighters, who mix easily with the general population, and because of incentives to falsely claim civilian casualties.


Civilian deaths
The Afghan government said it will try to regulate the presence of U.S. troops and their use of airstrikes, after a battle that reportedly killed 90 civilians Friday.
Afghan civilian deaths
2008 total as of Aug. 26: 705
536
158
Killed by militants
Killed by NATO/U.S. Crossfire 11
Jan. 2007 through Aug. 26, 2008
250 deaths
200
150
100
50
0
J M M J S N J M M J A
2007
2008
NOTE: Numbers do not include figures from the Herat battle on Aug. 22
SOURCE: AP report
AP

"The enemy knowingly hides behind women and children, they dress in burqas," Maj. Gen. Jeffery J. Schloesser told The Associated Press on Monday. "The enemy makes it extraordinarily difficult to avoid civilian casualties. We don't even know it (civilian casualties occurred) until the fighting is over."

In addition, the U.S. has long said that Taliban militants pressure Afghan villagers to falsely claim civilian casualties, information warfare that does serious damage to the reputations of the U.S., NATO and the Western-backed Afghan government

Indian authorities mounts mammoth flood rescue effort

SAHARSA DISTRICT, India (AP)—Hungry villagers rioted, desperate families swam for their lives and chaos spread across a wide swath of flooded plains in northern India Tuesday as authorities mounted one of the country's largest relief efforts

Soldiers and aid workers scrambled to reach hundreds of thousands of people still stranded on rooftops, trees and specks of dry land more than two weeks after monsoon rains caused the Kosi River to burst its banks and turn hundreds of square miles of Bihar state into a giant lake

The road linking Saharia village to the rest of the hard-hit Saharsa district washed away Monday. Those who could braved the fast-flowing, neck-deep water, carrying bicycles above their heads and bags of clothes on their shoulders. Some swam out into the stream, dragging frightened cattle after them.

"The water came on Saturday, and since then no government officials have come to us," said Ram Bachan Rai, 60, a Saharia resident.

The army sent more than 5,000 soldiers to join rescue efforts, while officials said more than half of the 1.2 million stranded had been rescued. Officials did not yet have a precise tally of those killed by the flooding, but estimates ranged from dozens to thousands.

The relief effort was the first to deploy all three branches of India's military—the army, navy and air force, said Prataya Amrit, a top disaster management official in Bihar. With the extra forces, officials hoped to complete the rescue phase of operations in two days, Amrit said.

But even as attention turned to housing and feeding the refugees, relief efforts were haphazard amid the chaos. New areas were cut off, posing fresh challenges to rescuers. Strong currents hampered their work, with the military being extra cautious after one of its boats capsized over the weekend, killing 19 people.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Friday, September 5, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda, for the above-referenced meeting:

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
1. Appointment of the Executive Director
2. Cancellation of Airport Emergency Generator

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Jose Lifoifoi
Chairman, Board of Directors

September 3, 2008
Date

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-3751 Fax: (670) 664-3760
www.cnmihdst@pticom.com

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on September 9, 2008 (Tuesday), from 10:30am-2:30pm, Fresko Cabin, Palms Resort, San Roque, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Quorum
D. Adoption of Agenda
E. Adoption of Minutes
1. August 12, 2008
II. Reports
A. Program Director
1. Monthly Report for August 2008
B. Updates
1. Program Improvement Projects
C. Financial Report
1. Monthly Financial Status Report for August 2008
D. Standing Committees
1. Personnel
2. Education Curriculum
3. Executive
4. Finance
5. Public Relations
III. Old Business
IV. New Business
V. Executive Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

Environment

Learning about survival, sustainability of NMI's natural resources

By PHILLIP JOHNSON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I am Phillip Johnson, a Coral Reef Initiative intern working under the CNMI's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. As far as I know, I am the only off-island intern in the program. Thus a significant part of my internship experience is the chance to live and work in a completely different environment. Besides my internship projects, I am grateful for the opportunity to visit and explore a beautiful island such as Saipan.

My internship responsibilities are divided into three main projects, centered on the DFW's commitment to ensure the long-term survival and sustainability of the CNMI's natural resources for future generations. The first project I completed was an update to the CNMI fishery checklist. The checklist serves as a record for all the verified fish species found in the CNMI. Beginning with the CNMI progress report from 1982-1986, the checklist has been updated regularly through different research agencies and projects. I incorporated data from the 2007 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's latest survey of fish. Thus, the checklist serves as a rigorous data set that provides a baseline and shows temporal trends in the CNMI's fish species assemblages. By tracking species presence data through time, DFW researchers can more accurately estimate any changes in species composition and develop the appropriate management response.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Phillip Johnson, fisheries management intern for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, was able to go into the field and sample some of Saipan's freshwater habitats. Three sampling methods were used: minnow traps, dip nets and electrofishing.

I was also responsible for updating the DFW's website. In many ways this was a completely new challenge for me. I have a background in biology and environmental science, so Web programming was a brand new field for me. Fortunately, I was able to grasp the fundamentals of Adobe Dreamweaver CS3 and some of the languages used by the Internet, such as HTML, CSS, and PHP. The website needed a cosmetic, structural, and content update to modernize its appearance and increase its professional quality. Some of the new content includes wildlife and bird posters, a staff directory, updated information about Saipan's marine protected areas, and updated hunting and fishing regulations. Not only is the webpage more aesthetically pleasing, but it now makes the entire division more transparent in their research, outreach, and enforcement activities. Please browse around and look at the new information at http://www.dfw.gov.mp.

Finally, I was also able to get out into the field and sample some of Saipan's freshwater habitats. Our sampling consisted of three methods. The first, minnow traps, are small nets placed into the water that congregate and trap fish. Secondly, we used dip nets, which require active netting to catch fish and invertebrates. Finally, we also used electrofishing. Electrofishing works by applying a specific amount of electricity in a designated shape and pattern to stun fish. Once fish are stunned, they are easily netted, counted, and released with relatively little harm. Electrofishing has become a standard practice in many part of the U.S. for sampling a diverse array of fish species.

Our work is one of DFW's first freshwater invasive species investigations. An invasive species is a non-indigenous species that harms the ecology or environment of the habitats they invade. Invasive species are one of the leading causes of extinctions worldwide. Economists estimate the control of and damage from invasive species in the U.S. alone is $138 billion annually. Therefore, invasive species are a serious ecological and economic drain on the world's resources.

Invasive species are a major concern here in the CNMI, primarily due to the brown tree snake's effect on Guam's native birds. There is an entire section of the DFW whose sole purpose is to prevent the brown tree snake from establishing itself in the CNMI. However, the state of the CNMI's freshwater ecosystems is relatively unknown, although there does appear to be evidence of Tilapia, Mollies, and invasive snails in our ecosystems. In order to prevent a highly damaging species from establishing here on Saipan, the DFW has decided to start monitoring for invasive species in the freshwater habitats around the island.

Our sampling took us around the entire island, from highly modified drainages like the Garapan drainage in front of the Fiesta Hotel, to very pristine environments like the Talafofo watershed. In the more natural watersheds, we found at least two species of shrimp, gobies, Rock Flagtail, and marine toads. In the disturbed drainages, we found at least two species of Tilapia, Sailfin Mollies, Ramshorn Snails, and Milkfish. Altogether, our results followed a pattern that we expected, in that those areas most disturbed by humans had the most invasive species. Conversely, the more natural areas had less non-native and invasive species.

Currently, I am starting the second year of a two-year master's program in Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, with emphasis in coastal marine resource management. After graduating, I plan to focus on a career working for the government or a non-profit organization working on fisheries and marine management issues. I have had an enormously positive experience here on Saipan and hope to be back sooner rather than later.

Phillip Johnson is a fisheries management intern for the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Safeguarding your business against pesticide violations

First of a three-part series

Businesses can avoid pesticide violations by complying with CNMI regulations. The Pesticides Regulations were established to control the importation, distribution, sale and use of pesticides to prevent environmental contamination and protect public health.

The pesticide program at the Division of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency classify pesticides as either General Use or Restricted Use.

General Use Pesticides are those that, when used as directed by the label, should not cause adverse health effects to the user. General Use Pesticides may be used by anyone.

Restricted Use Pesticides are those that may pose an unreasonable risk to the user or environment even when used as directed on the label. These pesticides must be used by or under the direct supervision of certified applicators (persons certified in pesticide application) and are not available to the general public.

Malathion, Dibrom, Sevin, Lannate, and Pounce are insecticides commonly used by

CNMI farmers. Round-Up, a herbicide and Duersban, an insecticide, are commonly used to control weeds and ants on golf courses.

IMPORTING PESTICIDES

Businesses or persons desiring to import a pesticide into the CNMI shall submit a Notice of Intent to Import pesticides and devices to the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The Notice of Intent to Import must be submitted at least ten working days prior to the arrival of the shipment, accompanied by the filing fee.

Upon arrival of the pesticide shipment into the CNMI, the person or company must submit a Notice of Arrival of pesticide and devices shipment.

Pesticide shipment may be detained or denied access if the importer fails to submit a DEQ approved notice of intent to import and notice of arrival of pesticide products. These products may then be confiscated and exported to the originating country or disposed of by DEQ at the expense of the importer.

USING OR SELLING OR DISTRIBUTING PESTICIDES

Application fees are required for using and applying pesticides. For rates, visit www.deq.gov.mp

Persons engaged in the sale or distribution of restricted use pesticides and who is not a certified applicator shall obtain a Pesticide Dealer's License Application from DEQ. This application fee is two hundred dollars. This license must be renewed each year at least thirty days before the expiration date.

EPA REGISTERED PESTICIDES

Legal products are registered with the EPA and have on the label an EPA Registration Number **(EPA Reg. No.)** and an EPA Establishment Number **(EPA Est. No.)**. The label must have complete instructions including where the product can be used, application instructions, what personal protective equipment to wear, and proper storage and disposal of the pesticide. *These instructions must be in English.* Importation of products with labelling other than English is a violation and may result in your business being fined.

For general information, visit the US EPA office of Pesticides at www.epa.gov/pesticides. DEQ's pesticide program can be reached at 664-8500 or visit www.deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

Recycling saves

The simple act of recycling saves our resources for the future.

To People: We do not have space for waste nor do we have extra cash to spend. Products made from raw materials cost more than if they were made from recycled products.

To the Environment: Recycling reduces the need for raw materials and uses less energy. The chemicals and greenhouse gases released from the rubbish in landfills can be prevented, if the products were recycled instead.

Below are some interested facts about recycling:

Aluminum

Aluminum cans can be recycled and ready to use in just 6 weeks.

More than 50% of a new aluminum can is made from recycled aluminum.

Glass

Glass is 100% recyclable and can be used again and again. We save over a ton of resources for every ton of glass recycled —1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.

Paper

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough energy to power the average American home for five months.

It takes 24 trees to make 1 ton of newspaper.

Plastic

Most families throw away about 88 pounds of plastic per year, which could otherwise be recycled.

Plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose.

Source: www.epa.gov and www.earth911.org

Did you know?

Recycling is an excellent way of saving energy and conserving the environment. Did you know that:

- 1 recycled tin can would save enough energy to power a television for 3 hours.
- 1 recycled glass bottle would save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.
- 1 recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours.
- 70 percent less energy is required to recycle paper compared with making it from raw materials.

Life & Style

Don LaFontaine, voice of movie trailers, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Don LaFontaine, the man who popularized the catch phrase "In a world where..." and lent his voice to thousands of movie trailers, has died. He was 68. LaFontaine died Monday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center from complications in the treatment of an ongoing illness, said Vanessa Gilbert, his agent.

LaFontaine made more than 5,000 trailers in his 33-year career while working for the top studios and television networks

In a rare on-screen appearance in 2006, he parodied himself on a series of national television commercials for a car insurance company where he played himself telling a customer, "In a world where both of our cars were totally under water..."

In an interview last year, LaFontaine explained the strategy behind the phrase. "We have to very rapidly establish the world we are transporting them to," he said of his viewers. "That's very easily done by saying, `In a world where ... violence rules.' `In a world where ... men are slaves and women are the conquerors.' You very rapidly set the scene."

LaFontaine insisted he never cared that no one knew his name or his face, though everyone knew his voice.

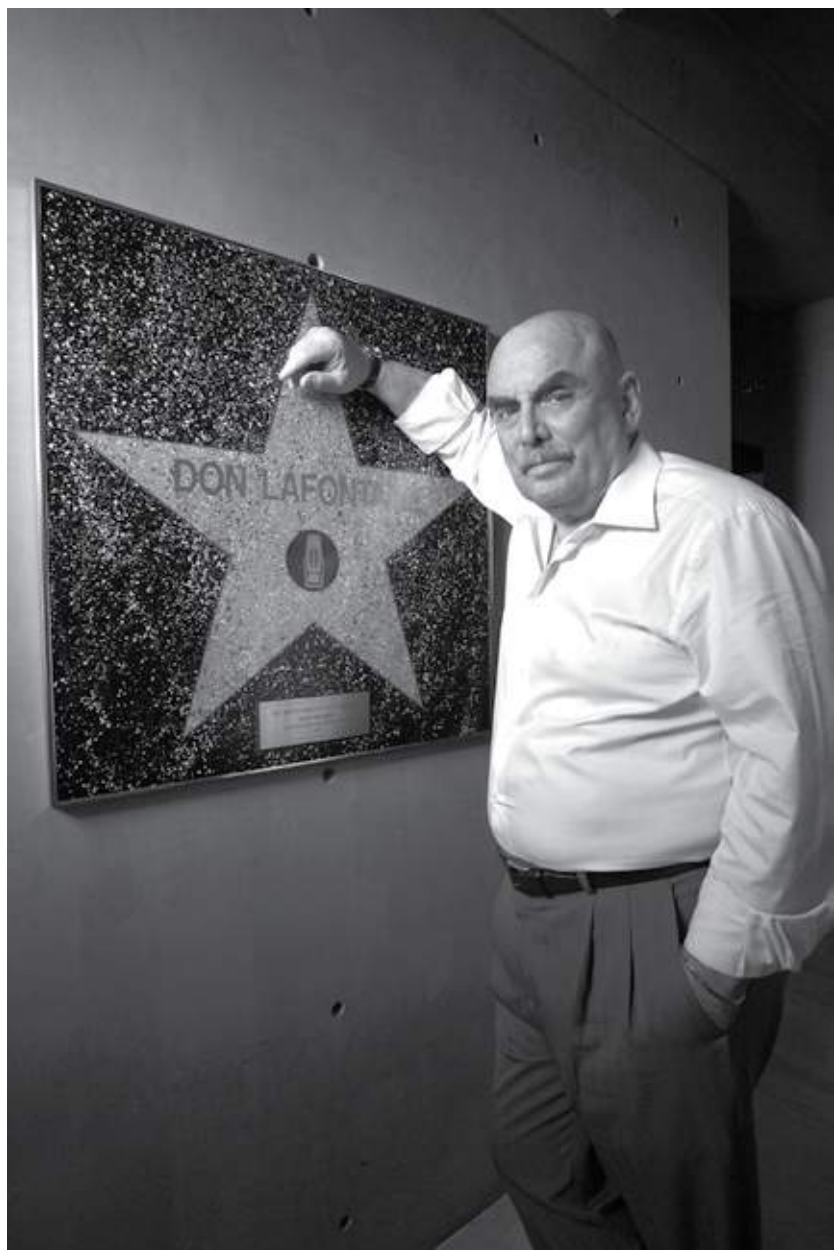
LaFontaine went on to work in the promo industry in the early 1960s. As an audio engineer, he produced radio spots for movies with producer Floyd Peterson.

When an announcer didn't show up for a recording session in 1965, LaFontaine voiced his first narration, a promo for the film, "Gunfighters of Casa Grande." The client, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, liked his performance.

LaFontaine remained active until recently, averaging seven to 10 voiceover sessions a day. He worked from a home studio his wife nicknamed "The Hole," where his fax machine delivered scripts.

LaFontaine is survived by his wife, the singer and actress Nita Whitaker, and three daughters.

His funeral arrangements were pending.



AP

In this Feb. 14, 2007 file photo Don LaFontaine, a voice over actor, poses for a photo next to a Hollywood Walk of Fame look alike star given to him by his wife, in his recording studio in his Silver Lake home in Los Angeles.

Letterman wants to call sunset for late-night gig

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Letterman wants to stick with CBS' "Late Show" through his contract—and maybe longer—as rival Jay Leno prepares to surrender the "Tonight" reins next year.

"The way I feel now, I would like to go beyond 2010, not much beyond, but you know, enough to go beyond. You always like to be able to excuse yourself on your own terms," Letterman said in an interview in Rolling Stone magazine.

"If the network is happy with that, great. If they wanna make a change in 2010, you know, I'm fine with that, too," Letterman said.

Letterman, along with Chris Rock and Tina Fey, is featured on the comedy-focused cover of the Rolling Stone issue out Friday.

Letterman, 61, questioned why NBC is proceeding with its plan to remove Leno, who consistently tops the late-night ratings. Conan O'Brien will take over "Tonight" in June 2009, with Jimmy Fallon moving into O'Brien's "Late Night" chair.

"Unless I'm misunderstanding something, I don't know why, after the job Jay has done for them, why they would relinquish that," Letterman said, adding, "I have to believe he was not happy about it."

Letterman speculated whether "that's actually what's going to happen," while acknowledging NBC might be too far down the road to retreat.

NBC is angling to keep Leno, 58, with NBC Universal but the late-night king has indicated he's ready to jump ship. Eager NBC competitors, including other networks and syndicators, are prepared to help him make the leap.

Letterman, who called O'Brien "a very funny guy," was asked about facing him as the new "Tonight" host. A cautious Letterman said he couldn't predict the outcome. "It will be weird to see Conan at 11:30, don't you think? Which is not to say he can't succeed, but, no, I don't know what the competition will be like. I hope we're able to do OK."

In the Rolling Stone article, Letterman discusses guests including Madonna, Oprah Winfrey and Howard Stern, with the most moving remarks about musician Warren Zevon, who appeared on "Late Show" shortly before his 2003 death from cancer.

Letterman recalled his "heartbreaking" meeting with Zevon in a dressing room after the show.

AP

In this photo released by CBS, U.S. Olympic decathlon gold medalist Bryan Clay, left, talks with host David Letterman about the different events that make up the decathlon, on the set of "Late Show with David Letterman," Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008, in New York.

Comics tread lightly with Palin pregnancy

NEW YORK (AP)—The pregnancy of Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin's unwed daughter was fair game for late-night comics on Monday, but they tread lightly.

Three of the comics, in fact, made Democrat John Edwards the butt of their jokes about the situation. Edwards, the former presidential candidate, admitted this summer to an affair after first denying it.

"Governor Palin announced over the weekend that her 17-year-old unmarried daughter is five months' pregnant," Jay Leno said near the top of his "Tonight" show monologue. "And you thought John Edwards was in trouble before! Now he has really done it."

Both Craig Ferguson and Conan O'Brien, who compete against each other in the early morning hours, went down the same road.

"I don't think that a young lady getting pregnant should even be news," said Ferguson, of CBS' "Late Late Show." "Unless John Edwards is the father. Then that is kinda news."

NBC's O'Brien joked that Palin said that "we should never have introduced her to John Edwards."

David Letterman, on CBS' "Late Show," made the pregnancy the subject of only his fifth and last joke about the selection of the Alaska governor as John McCain's running mate.

"Here's good news, ladies and gentlemen," Letterman said. "The Palin family crisis that we were talking about on Sunday and Monday, that has been solved now and, today, the baby is being adopted by Angelina Jolie." Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" kept his lacerating wit away from the topic. There was only one allusion to it in a Samantha Bee weather forecast skit, when a cloud in the shape of a pregnant woman floated by.

Leno, before moving on, touched on the situation with three gentle jokes. He said that apparently Palin's daughter is named "Juno," a reference to the movie about a hip unwed teenager who gives birth to her child.

His third joke was about telling McCain about the pregnancy, but "into his bad ear."

OBITUARIES

Ike Pappas, who broadcast Oswald death, dead at 75

NEW YORK (AP)—Ike Pappas, a longtime CBS newsman who was a few feet from presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald when he was fatally shot and reported the chaotic scene live on the air, has died at 75. Pappas died Sunday in an Arlington, Va., hospital of complications from heart disease, his family said. A New York City native, Pappas was in Dallas after John F. Kennedy's Nov. 22, 1963, assassination, reporting for New York radio station WNEW, when police brought the manacled Oswald into the police station basement two days later to be transferred to the jail. He had just asked the suspect, "You have anything to say in your defense?" when someone shoved Pappas, a gunshot sounded and Oswald crumpled, mortally wounded. "There's a shot! Oswald has been shot! Oswald has been shot!" Pappas said on the air. "A shot rang out. Mass confusion here, all the doors have been locked. Holy mackerel!" "One of the wildest scenes I've ever seen," he said seconds later. The person who had elbowed Pappas aside turned out to be Jack Ruby, the nightclub owner who was convicted of killing Oswald. Pappas lived in McLean, Va. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; two sons, Theodore and Alexander; a daughter, Sarah Thomason; and two grandchildren.

Singer-actor Jerry Reed dies at the age of 71

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Jerry Reed, a singer who became a good ol' boy actor in car chase movies like "Smokey and the Bandit," has died of complications from emphysema at 71. His longtime booking agent, Carrie Moore-Reed, no relation to the star, said Reed died early Monday. "He's one of the greatest entertainers in the world. That's the way I feel about him," Moore-Reed said. Sony BMG Nashville Chairman Joe Galante called Reed a larger-than-life personality "Everything about Jerry was distinctive: his guitar playing, writing, voice and especially his sense of humor," Galante said. "I was honored to have worked with him." Reed's catalog of country chart hits, from 1967 through 1983, were released under the label group's RCA imprint. As a singer in the 1970s and early 1980s, Reed had a string of hits that included "Amos Moses," "When You're Hot, You're Hot," "East Bound and Down," "She Got the Goldmine (I Got the Shaft)" and "The Bird." Reed was voted instrumentalist of the year in 1970 by the Country Music Association.

AP

In this Aug. 14, 2008 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan poses on the press line at the Apple Lounge grand opening in West Hollywood, Calif.

Lohan gets political on blog, sounds off on Palin

NEW YORK (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is getting political.

The 22-year-old actress took to her MySpace blog Tuesday to post her thoughts on Republican John McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, and the revelation that Palin's unmarried 17-year-old daughter is pregnant.

"I've been watching the news all morning, like everyone else—and (I) keep hearing about the issues related to 'teen pregnancy.' ... Well, I think the real problem comes from the fact that we are taking the focus off of getting to know Sarah Palin and her political views, and what she can do to make our country a less destructive place," Lohan wrote.

Lohan suggested Palin "focus on delivering some words and policy with stronger impact like Joe Biden," Democrat Barack Obama's running mate.

The actress, who will guest star on ABC's "Ugly Betty" this season, then put out a plea to parents.

"I think that parents need to recognize how important it is to talk to their children about the things that can result from being sexually active if they aren't protecting themselves (birth control, condoms, etc.)," she wrote.

Lohan's blog has become a sounding board for her this summer. She lashed out at her father Michael on her blog last Thursday, calling him a "public embarrassment" after he said in an interview with E! that Lohan gal pal Samantha Ronson was "using" his daughter.

She's also used her blog to recommend music (Annie Lennox's "Walking on Broken Glass," was a pick) and search for a particular ice cream.

Lohan's publicist, Leslie Sloane-Zelnik, earlier confirmed Lohan had written the post about her father, but did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the latest entry.

Usher plans 'One Night Stand' tour for ladies only

NEW YORK (AP)—Usher is preparing a tour for ladies only.

The R&B singer revealed in a recent interview with The Associated Press that he will soon announce details of his "One Night Stand" tour. He said specific dates are still being worked out for about 15 "intimate" venues.

Asked why he wanted to perform a "ladies only" tour, Usher said he relishes the challenge.

"There's only a few artists that can pull that off," said the 29-year-old singer. "I feel like I've had such a connection with my audience. This album, I felt like, was definitely the type of one that was more intimate. So what better way to get up close and personal than to make it all women?"

Usher's latest album, "Here I Stand," finds him still singing about the life of a lothario, but this time he's a more mature, committed lothario. He sings: "This aint' sex/ This is a symbol of the true makings of love."

Usher

Last year, Usher married Tameka Foster and the couple had a son, Usher Raymond V. Though now a family man, Usher hasn't relinquished his sex symbol status.

"The ladies like to see that masculine build," he said. "They question if I still got it."

To go with the theme, Usher is also planning his own line of lingerie and men's undergarments. He already has a fragrance and cologne.

Usher, who's working on a video for his new single "Trading Places," will perform at the National Football League's annual kickoff concert Thursday along with Keith Urban and Natasha Bedingfield.

Auction raises cash for Superman's Ohio birthplace

CLEVELAND (AP)—Superman's run-down house needs your help.

An online auction began Tuesday to raise money to restore the inner-city house where the idea for the Superman character was conceived.

Two high school boys, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, hatched the idea of the man who could bend steel with his bare hands in 1933. Hattie and Jefferson Gray have owned the home and lived there for more than two decades, tolerating unexpected visits by Superman fans.

Auction organizers hope the sale will raise at least $50,000 to fix the roof, replace rotting wood siding and repaint the house, with anything left over going toward upkeep and future repairs.

Among the items to be auctioned during September will be a T-shirt signed by Siegel, a walk-on role on television's "Heroes," and original art by Jim Lee, Murphy Anderson, George Perez, Tim Sale and others. Lee's drawing offer drew a $710 bid on Tuesday.

AP

The boyhood home of Superman creator Jerry Siegel in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood is shown Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

The Cleveland-based Siegel and Shuster Society and novelist Brad Meltzer's charity—Ordinary People Change the World—will run the four weeklong auctions of about 12 items at a time. The Grays recently agreed to give the Siegel and Shuster Society first rights to buy the house at fair market value when they decide to sell it.

'Billy Elliot,' 'Shrek' head list of fall musicals

NEW YORK (AP)—Not since the heyday of the '80s British musical invasion—which brought "Cats," "The Phantom of Opera" and "Les Miserables"—has Broadway anticipated such a big, critically lauded musical from across the Atlantic as "Billy Elliot."

It's the show generating the most buzz, particularly at the box office, and that's saying a lot, as New York braces for a fall of six Broadway musicals—five new shows and one revival—plus several off-Broadway offerings, including one with a score by Stephen Sondheim.

Among the other names contributing to the first half of the season are novelist Charles Dickens, composer Irving Berlin, that conniving cad known as "Pal Joey" and an ornery green ogre called Shrek.

Set against the backdrop of a bitter miners' strike in the north of England, "Billy Elliot," based on the film of the same name, tells of a young boy who dreams of dancing. The show's most prominent name, of course, is its composer, pop superstar Elton John, with book and lyrics handled by Lee Hall and direction by Stephen Daldry.

Haydn Gwynne, who originated the role of Billy's dance teacher in the London production, will make her Broadway debut in the show, which opens Nov. 13 at the Imperial Theatre. Preview performances begin Oct. 1.

Three young performers—David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik and Kiril Kulish—will alternate in the role of Billy. And the large supporting cast will include such veteran New York actors as Carole Shelley, Gregory Jbara and Leah Hocking.

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For Friday, August 29 through Thursday, September 4 only!

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Babylon A.D.

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:35
Sat and Sun	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:10	

Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
It is the not-too-distant future. Thousands of satellites scan, observe and monitor our every move. Much of the planet is a war zone; the rest, a collection of wretched way stations, teeming megalopolises, and vast wastelands punctuated by areas left radioactive from nuclear meltdowns. It is a world made for hardened warriors, one of whom, a mercenary known only as Toorop, lives by a simple survivor's code: kill or be killed. His latest assignment has him smuggling a young woman named Aurora from a convent in Kazakhstan to New York City.

Traitor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Sat and Sun	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:25	

Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When straight arrow FBI agent Roy Clayton heads up the investigation into a dangerous international conspiracy, all clues seem to lead back to former U.S. Special Operations officer, Samir Horn. A mysterious figure with a web of connections to terrorist organizations, Horn has a knack for emerging on the scene just as a major operation goes down. The inter-agency task force looking into the case meets with Carter, a veteran CIA contractor who seemingly has his own agenda and Max Archer, a fellow FBI agent.

★ ★ ★

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Sat and Sun	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Monday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Sat and Dun	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	10:00
Sat and Sun	1:10	4:20	7:15	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:30
Sat and Sun	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:30
Monday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Dark Knight

Friday		@	7:00	@
Sat and Sun	1:00	@	7:00	@
Monday	1:00	@	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		@	7:00	

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday		4:05	@	9:50
Sat ans Sun	@	4:05	@	9:50
Monday	@	4:05	@	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	@	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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Actress Helen Mirren: I used to 'love' cocaine

LONDON (AP)—Oscar-winning British actress Helen Mirren said she used to love cocaine, but stopped taking the drug after learning that a Nazi war criminal profited from the trade, according to a magazine.

The 63-year-old, who won an Academy Award for her role in "The Queen," was quoted by GQ magazine as saying she used to dabble in marijuana and cocaine when she was younger.

"I loved coke. I never did a lot, just a little bit at parties," Mirren was quoted as telling the magazine in an interview, which was made available to the media Monday. "But what ended it for me was when they caught (Nazi war criminal) Klaus Barbie, the Butcher of Lyon, in the early 80s. He was hiding in South America and living off the proceeds of being a cocaine baron.

"And I read that in the paper, and all the cards fell into place, and I saw how my little sniff of cocaine at a party had an absolute direct route to this ... horrible man in South America," she was quoted as saying.

Mirren also reportedly said she used to steal during what she described as a "very poor" youth.

"I needed to shoplift for food," she reportedly said, adding that while she enjoyed "the accoutrements of movie star life" she still had frugal instincts, cutting her own hair and wearing dollar-store glasses.

Mirren said she was not a royalist but had become a fan of Queen Elizabeth II since playing her in "The Queen."

"It's a miracle she's never gone mad," Mirren was quoted as saying. "She is a remarkable person, who has achieved an amazing thing with a life she neither chose for herself, nor particularly wanted."

Mirren's interview is carried in the British edition of GQ, which goes on sale Thursday.

Library of Congress to honor Stevie Wonder

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Library of Congress will honor Stevie Wonder with its second Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

Librarian of Congress James Billington, who announced the prize Tuesday, noted that the prize honors an artist whose work transcends musical styles to bring diverse listeners together and foster mutual understanding. It recognizes a musician's lifetime of work.

Wonder

Wonder, 58, will receive the award on Feb. 23, 2009. The first Gershwin Prize was awarded in 2007 to Paul Simon.

Self-taught on piano, harmonica and other instruments, Steveland Morris was just 12 when he first wowed national TV audiences on shows like Dick Clark's "American Bandstand." He was "Little Stevie Wonder" back then, a name he says someone at Motown Records—he can't remember exactly who—came up with.

From his earliest days as a prodigy covering Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" through such songs of his own as "You Are the Sunshine of My Life," "My Cherie Amour" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours," his music has sought to uplift and inform as well as entertain.

Among his albums: "Talking Book," "Innervisions," "Fulfillingness First Finale" and "Songs in the Key of Life," the last of which included his classic single "Love in Need of Love Today."

British museum buys Rolling Stones' lips artwork

LONDON (AP)—Mick Jagger's pout is officially fit for a museum.

London's Victoria and Albert Museum announced Tuesday that it bought the original artwork for The Rolling Stones' famous "lips" logo, inspired by the singer's mouth.

The museum said it bought the work at an auction in the United States for $92,500.

The lips-and-tongue logo was designed by London art student John Pasche in 1970, and first used on the band's "Sticky Fingers" album the next year.

The design "is one of the first examples of a group using branding, and it has become arguably the world's most famous rock logo," said Victoria Broakes, head of exhibitions for the museum's theater and performance collections.

Pasche told The Guardian newspaper that the idea for the logo came "when I met Jagger for the first time at the Stones' offices.

"Face to face with him, the first thing you were aware of was the size of his lips and his mouth," Pasche was quoted as saying. He said he would use the money from the sale to send his 11-year-old son to private school.

Charges filed in McConaughey surf battle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two surfers have been charged with misdemeanor battery for allegedly throwing a photographer into the water as he tried to shoot pictures of Matthew McConaughey surfing, prosecutors said Tuesday.

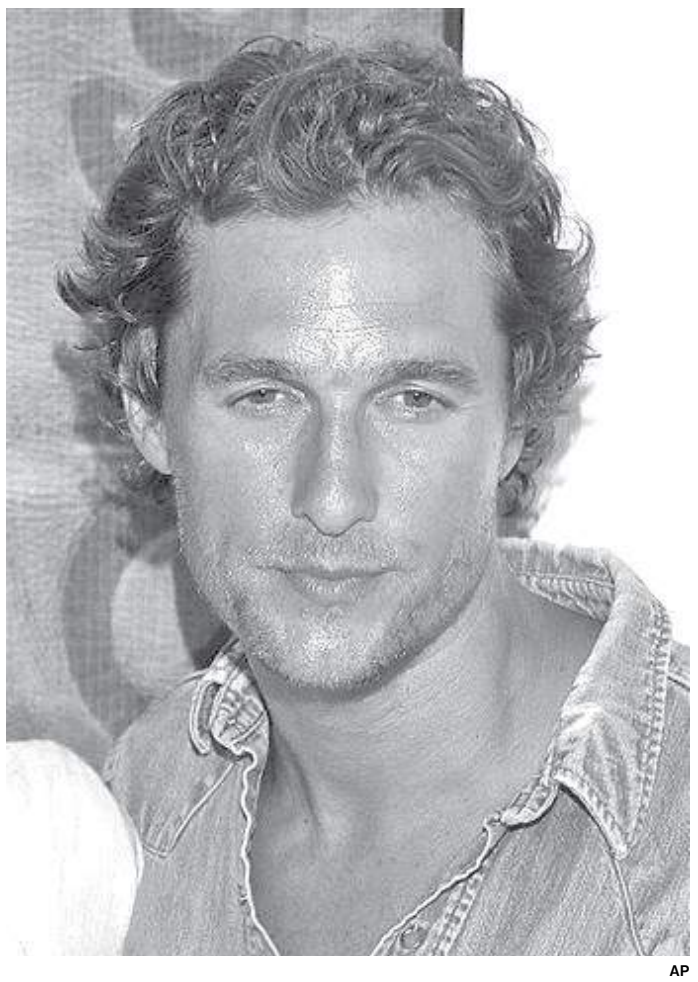
Skylar Peak, 24, and Philip Hildebrand, 30, are accused of confronting several paparazzi who showed up in June on a Malibu beach to take pictures and film McConaughey.

One of the photographers told authorities he was attacked and his camera was thrown in the ocean by the surfers after they demanded he put his camera away. McConaughey was not involved in the scuffle, which was one of a series of high-profile incidents that prompted Malibu and other Los Angeles area officials to seek ways to curb the paparazzi. Sheriff's officials have said that despite video of the confrontation being posted online, they struggled to find cooperative witnesses. But on Tuesday a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles district attorney's office said prosecutors felt they had enough evidence to pursue the case.

Peak and Hildebrand will be arraigned in October.

"We believe that a complete investigation, including looking at the tapes, will show that Skylar defended himself," said Peak's publicist, Howard Bragman.

A working phone number could not located for Hildebrand.


AP

In this Aug. 7, 2008 file photo, actor Matthew McConaughey and Camila Alves attend the Muxo Private Launch Party in Los Angeles.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Former US poet laureate receives $100,000 prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Former U.S. poet laureate Louise Glueck has been awarded the Wallace Stevens Award, a $100,000 prize for "outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry," the Academy of American Poets announced Tuesday. Glueck, who served as poet laureate in 2003-04, is known for such books as "Averno," "The Seven Ages" and "Vita Nova." Previous winners of the Stevens award include Adrienne Rich, John Ashbery and Richard Wilbur. Brigit Pegeen Kelly, a runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize in 2005, received an academy fellowship, which includes a $25,000 stipend, for "distinguished poetic achievement." Kelly's works include "Song" and "The Orchard," a Pulitzer finalist.

Judge enters $700,000 judgment for Ne-Yo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has ordered a concert promoter to pay R&B singer-songwriter Ne-Yo $700,000 stemming from A lawsuit filed earlier this year. Ne-Yo was dropped from R. Kelly's tour last year after two shows. He claimed he was dropped because he had upstaged Kelly, an allegation the singer vehemently denied. Kelly was not a party to the lawsuit. Ne-Yo (real name: Shaffer Smith) instead sued the tour's promoter, Georgia-based Rowe Entertainment Inc. Rowe Entertainment never answered the lawsuit, and last week Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Malcolm Mackey ordered the company to pay Ne-Yo and his touring company $700,320. Rowe Entertainment said in a statement posted on its Web site after the lawsuit's filing that it couldn't obtain a "final, fully executed contract" from Ne-Yo's agent. Ne-Yo's CDs "In My Own Words" and "Because of You" both had sales of more than 1 million.

Son's at a loss to handle dad's threats of suicide

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My father and I usually get along well, but whenever we get into an argument, he'll say something like, "Well, maybe I should just kill myself. Then you won't have to deal with me!" This has been going on for as long as I can remember. I'm 21 now.

Abby, I don't think my dad is really suicidal. I think he says these things to make me feel guilty. It's hurtful because suicide is a serious matter, and I always have to ask myself, "What if?"

Telling him to stop just results in more emotional blackmail. He has also refused to see a counselor. I could really use some advice.

CAN'T WIN IN NEW YORK

DEAR CAN'T WIN: I agree with you that threats of suicide are a serious matter. And I have long said in this column that repeated threats of suicide should not be ignored. The next time your father starts talking about suicide, ask him if he is really serious. And, if he says he is, call 9-1-1. He may need 72 hours of observation.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: May I respond to the letter from "Needs to Know Now in Virginia" (Aug. 4)? I, too, spent time behind bars—14 months. My soon-to-be ex sent me a card on our 20th anniversary, a month after I was incarcerated, promising he'd be there for me when I got out. After months of denying there was anyone else, I finally found out the truth. She was not only accepted by his family, but also my kids.

When I fell into a deep depression and tried to commit suicide, my husband told everyone it was just an act. That was 11 months ago.

Today I believe everything happens for a reason, because during most of our marriage my husband had tried to control me and verbally abused me. He'd tell me I was a horrible mother and wife, that my own family hated me and I had no friends. After a while, I started to believe him and had little or no self-esteem. While incarcerated, I took classes and learned that verbal abuse is as bad, if not worse, than physical. The scars heal, but the words kept playing over and over like a tape in my head.

One thing I learned in the classes is you can't change someone else; you can only change yourself. To this day he continues to verbally abuse me. Last week he said he hopes I have cancer and die. But the words don't hurt anymore. The only hurt I suffer is that he has convinced our children that I was a bad mother, so they no longer speak to me. They have welcomed her into their lives.

I have learned to accept that my children want nothing to do with me, but pray that someday they will return to my life. I have met a caring man who knows all about my past and loves me for who I am. I am now grateful to the other woman. She saved me from a miserable marriage, and I know one day he'll do to her what he did to me.

So, my advice to "Needs to Know" is to run away as fast as she can because the man she's involved with is no man. A real man would stand by his wife for better and for worse.

HAPPY NOW IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR HAPPY: As difficult as your life has been, I'm pleased to know that you are now in a better place emotionally. Clearly, the time you spent behind bars was not wasted. You did some extremely important work while you were inside, and I know you will put to good use the knowledge you gained while you were there. You go, girl. I wish you the best of luck.

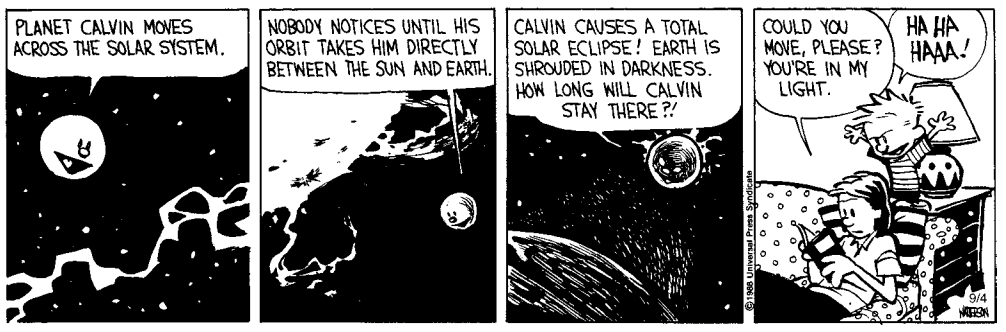
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PLANET CALVIN MOVES ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
NOBODY NOTICES UNTIL HIS ORBIT TAKES HIM DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE SUN AND EARTH.
CALVIN CAUSES A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE! EARTH IS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS. HOW LONG WILL CALVIN STAY THERE?!
COULD YOU MOVE, PLEASE? YOU'RE IN MY LIGHT.
HA HA HAAA!
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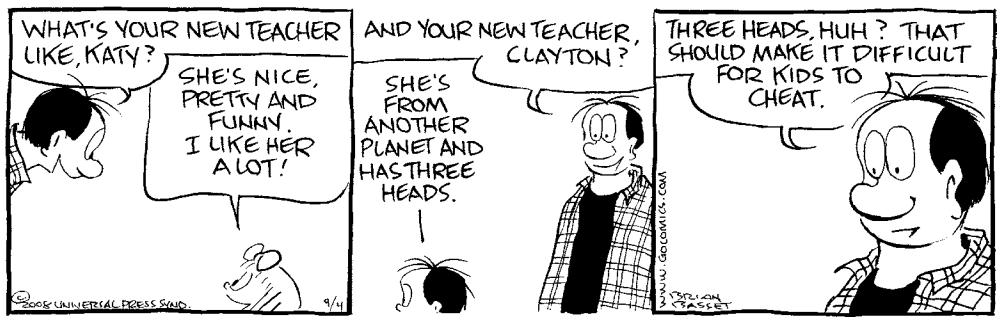
9/4

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S YOUR NEW TEACHER LIKE, KATY?
SHE'S NICE, PRETTY AND FUNNY. I LIKE HER A LOT!
AND YOUR NEW TEACHER, CLAYTON?
SHE'S FROM ANOTHER PLANET AND HAS THREE HEADS.
THREE HEADS, HUH? THAT SHOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR KIDS TO CHEAT.
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BRYAN BASSET
9/4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M GOING TO THE BOOKSTORE. DO YOU WANT TO COME?
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CAN'T. I'VE BEEN BANNED FROM THERE.
WHY?
I SAW A SIGN ON A SHELF SAYING "SCRATCH AND SNIFF," AND...WELL... DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO GO INTO ALL THE DETAILS?
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Glenn McCoy
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

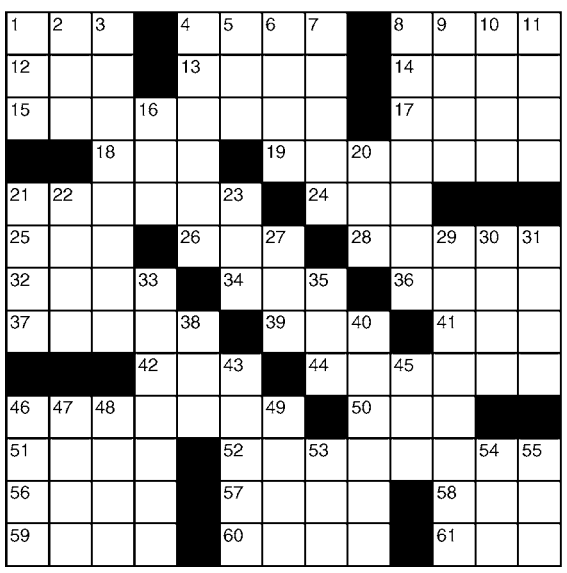
ACROSS
1 Bake sale org.
4 TV reality series
8 Venomous vipers
12 Lummox
13 Destroy
14 Cancel a dele
15 Flattery
17 Uncomplicated
18 Passbook abbr.
19 Orator's place
21 Redeemable item of yore
24 Trench
25 Swiss canton
26 Oktoberfest souvenir
28 Jabbers?
32 Give temporarily
34 "Married ... With Children" mother
36 Eats
37 Reason
39 — Mahal
41 Khan title
42 Tibetan gazelle
44 Big cheese
46 "Confounded!"
50 Zodiac cat
51 Wheelbase terminus
52 Never to return
56 Approach
57 Privy to
58 Previous night
59 "No ifs, —, or buts"
60 Slave to crosswords?
61 Morning moisture

DOWN
1 Neg. opp.
2 Chinese path
3 Developing an attachment?
4 Usage
5 Lennon's lady
6 Technodatebooks
7 Sleep
8 Germfree
9 Attempt
10 Mexican money
11 Charon's river
16 Potent stick
20 "— Wiedersehen"
21 Nonsense
22 Sandwich cookie
23 Young seal
27 Obtain
29 Kept tabs on
30 Takeout request
31 Booty
33 Some go for the gold
35 Roscoe
38 Bill's partner
40 1974 Dolly Parton hit
43 Rolling Stones classic
45 Shell-game need
46 Carvey or Delany
47 The yoke's on them
48 Pleased
49 A long time
53 "Smoking or —?"
54 Rd.
55 Evergreen type

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	B	C		B	O	I	L		B	A	L	M
L	E	A		E	R	G	O		A	R	I	A
O	A	R		S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N
C	U	B	I	T			E	B	B			
			N	O	R	A		S	E	T	T	O
M	O	O	N	W	A	L	K		R	E	A	R
A	T	M		S	H	O	E	S		A	L	T
S	T	A	B		S	U	N	P	O	R	C	H
H	O	N	O	R		D	O	I	N			
			S	E	W			D	E	T	O	X
M	O	O	N	S	H	I	N	E		A	I	R
A	N	D	I		Y	O	U	R		D	N	A
D	A	D	A		S	U	B	S		S	K	Y

Yesterday's answer 9-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Beyonce Knowles, 27; Jason David Frank, 35; Ione Skye, 37; Mike Piazza, 40

Happy Birthday: You are in control even if you don't think you are. Don't let the details hold you back. If something trivial needs to be done, be willing to let someone else handle it for you while you focus on the big picture. Present, promote and play the lead role. Don't delay. Your numbers are 7, 10, 28, 33, 42, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give in to demands. Instead, choose who will accompany you. Jumping to conclusions or letting your outrage get the better of you will not bring results or help you depict a good image of yourself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be fine-tuned when it comes to picking up information if you listen to the pros and cons of a different philosophy or lifestyle. Pick and choose which aspects of what you have learned can be incorporated into your day-to-day life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Try not to succumb to pressure from a colleague using emotional blackmail to manipulate a situation. You are better and smarter and, if you are truthful and go to the top with your objectives, you will be the one to break ground in the end. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Step outside your world for a moment and you will see clearly that you are dealing with someone who isn't thinking straight. Get away from the madness. Sign up for anything that will take your mind off your personal troubles. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You've let others hold you back for too long. Get involved in new friendships but, most of all, learn to say no to the people dragging you down. Recognize who's causing the problem and do something about it. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make alterations that ensure your success. If you aren't the one to make the changes, someone else will make them for you. It's better to stay in control than to be saddled with what someone else wants for you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get on with your plans before it's too late. Procrastination will lead to disrespect and cause you to fall behind. Don't give in to demands. Stop waffling and start producing. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If you gave your all trying to keep the peace or bring people together and it didn't happen, move on to safer territory that has the potential for you to be successful professionally and personally. Change will be rewarding in the end. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Not everyone will be on your side. Look at the big picture and decide if something is worth your while. Refuse to let someone make you feel you owe him or her something. Turn the tables—you can win. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Show your emotions and you will gain popularity. If you can make others feel a part of something, the rest will fall into place. Relate by using your own life stories and, before you know it, others will come on board. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let your emotions lead you down the wrong path. You may feel sorry for someone but you cannot bail this person out. Be the one who listens and makes suggestions but don't do what needs to be done on your own. Stand your ground. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A false impression may prompt you to do something uncalled for. Wait until the dust settles and you have a clear picture of what's to come. Someone with familiarity will be able to tell you when and how to make your move. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are hardheaded, intent and relentless. You are creative, big-hearted, intense and mysterious about your desires.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9				4	
8						9		3
	7				3			2
					6	7		4
	5	9				3	2	
6		1	3					
3			1				6	
1		7						8
	8				2			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	5	8	7	4	3	1	2
2	3	8	1	9	6	7	5	4
1	7	4	3	2	5	9	6	8
4	9	7	6	5	2	1	8	3
8	2	6	4	3	1	5	7	9
3	5	1	7	8	9	2	4	6
6	1	3	9	4	7	8	2	5
5	4	9	2	1	8	6	3	7
7	8	2	5	6	3	4	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NORTH DAKOTA GHOST TOWNS — **Solution: 6 letters**

A	R	U	O	T	V	T	S	U	D	O	X	E	E	P
R	B	U	C	Y	R	U	S	F	A	R	M	T	O	S
M	L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	S	O	E	S	T	Y
O	E	E	N	M	E	U	V	A	N	R	T	A	T	P
U	A	L	A	D	B	T	C	E	C	A	T	P	R	H
R	K	P	A	B	O	Y	I	E	L	U	M	E	S	Y
D	P	M	L	R	A	N	T	B	S	E	S	R	D	S
A	S	E	I	W	U	A	E	G	A	E	A	E	L	D
L	D	T	L	G	L	T	N	D	R	H	S	L	E	E
E	N	I	A	O	R	I	L	V	E	E	N	T	I	R
K	A	E	S	T	D	A	A	U	R	V	A	I	F	D
R	L	E	R	L	I	T	T	T	C	L	E	A	N	N
A	D	N	I	R	I	O	E	I	O	T	Ⓞ	Ⓛ	Ⓓ	U
T	A	U	R	O	A	D	N	S	O	E	S	U	O	H
S	B	D	N	I	W	B	I	S	S	N	I	A	L	P

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Abandoned, Appam, Armourdale, Badlands, Barren, Bleak, Bucyrus, Buildings, Crete, Cultural, Deserted, Desolate, Develop, Dreary, Dust, Empty, Exodus, Farm, Fields, Harsh, House, Hundreds, Isolated, Landmarks, Leal, Migration, Nome, Old, Plains, Postal, Preservation, Railway, Road, Rubble, Stark, Stations, Status, Temple, Tour, Travel, Uninhabited, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Squeeze

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

K A ACORN K A ACORN

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Opening Date: July 10, 2008 Closing Date: September 4, 2008

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Location Power Generation, Saipan

JVA No. 08-020 Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Civil Engineering)
Locations Power Generation, Saipan; Water and Wastewater, Saipan; and Power Division, Saipan

Opening Date: July 25, 2008 Closing Date: September 4, 2008

JVA No. 08-022 Assistant Engineer (Mechanical and/or Electrical)
Locations Power Generation, Saipan; **Power Generation, Rota**

JVA No. 08-023 Information Technology Analyst/Engineer
Location IT/EDP, Saipan

Opening Date: August 27, 2008 Closing Date: September 18, 2008

JVA No. 08-024 Trades Technician (Mechanical and Operator)
Location Power Generation, Saipan

JVA No. 08-025 Trades Foreperson (Mechanical and/or Electrical)
Location Power Generation, Saipan

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu
joins Micro
OPINION METER

235- NEWS

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Federer holds on to avoid major upset at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—His strokes awry, his emotions laid bare for all to see, Roger Federer figured out a way to stay in the U.S. Open.

Federer found himself locked in a five-set struggle against the sort of player the world is accustomed to seeing him dismiss with ease, and it was only down the stretch that the four-time defending champion at Flushing Meadows looked the part.

Avoiding as big an upset as tennis has seen in a while, Federer came back to beat 23rd-seeded Igor Andreev of Russia 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 Tuesday night to reach the quarterfinals at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

When Federer finished the match with a forehand winner, he shook his fists violently and yelled, then a flashed a grin toward his girlfriend and others in the player guest box.

Hard to recall the last time this guy was so pleased by a mere fourth-round victory, one that moved him into a match against qualifier Gilles Muller. Federer is, after all, a man who owns 12 Grand Slam titles, two shy of Pete Sampras' career mark. A man who has won 31 consecutive matches at the U.S. Open. A man who is trying to extend his record streak of 17 straight appearances in major semifinals.

And yet, because of how tough this was, Federer couldn't stop smiling at the end of the 3 1/2-hour test.

"I was just trying to stay in the match," he told the supportive crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Novak Djokovic felt the same way about his own five-setter in the fourth round, on the same court earlier Tuesday. When Djokovic's 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 victory over No. 15 Tommy Robredo of Spain was over, the 2007 runner-up to Federer at the U.S. Open and the reigning Australian Open champion looked up in the stands and saw his mom pounding her chest repeatedly.

Djokovic responded in kind, bumping a closed fist over his heart four times, then using his right index finger to point there, point to each knee and point to his temple—looking up at his guest box all the while.

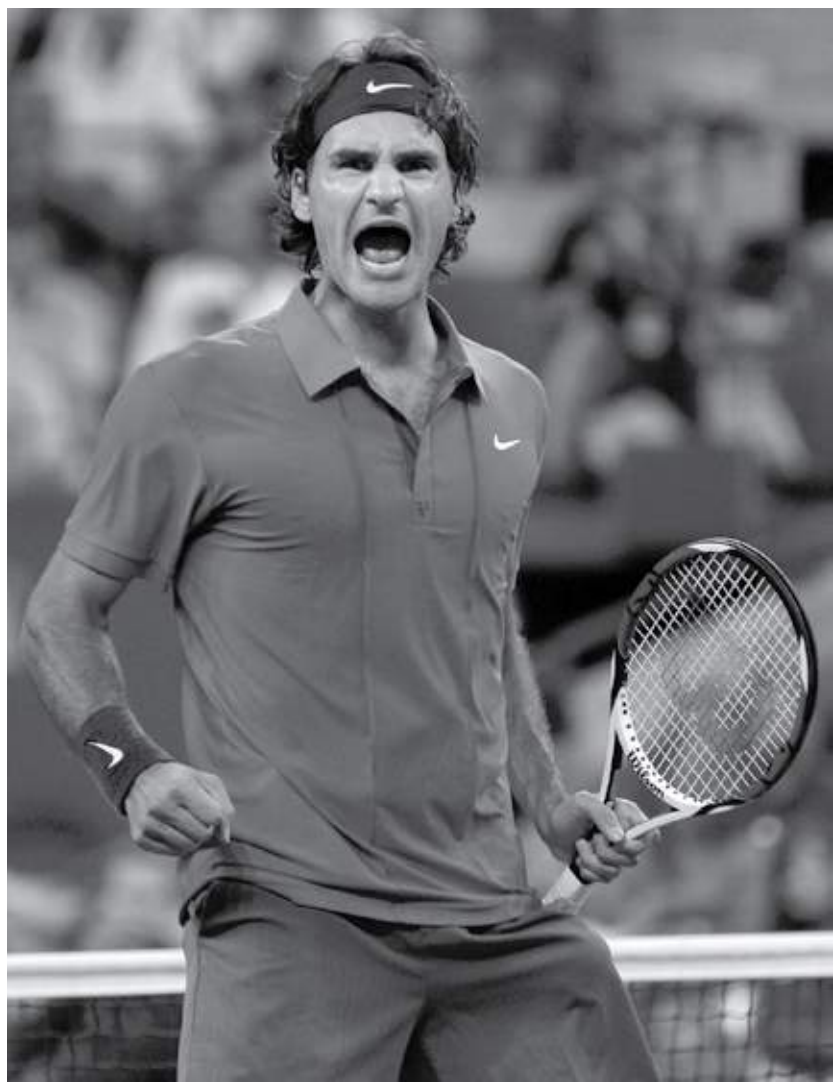
"Just trying to show them, you know, how much effort I put into this match," Djokovic said.

He needed every ounce of heart, smarts and energy he could muster, and acknowledged that his quarterfinal foe—2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick or No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez—would be fitter.

Djokovic was bothered at various points by his stomach, his hip, his right ankle and breathing problems.

"Somehow," the No. 3 Djokovic said, "I managed."

This has been a difficult year for the once-unbeatable Federer, whose 12 losses already are more than he absorbed in any entire season from 2004-07.



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates his win over Igor Andreev of Russia at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

The standards he has set are so high that any misstep is fodder for questions about the state of his game—and his career.

Plenty of top players would love to endure the sort of "down year" Federer has had. Don't forget, he did reach the semifinals at the Australian Open and the finals at the other two major tournaments.

Still, it's one thing to lose to Rafael Nadal, the man who walloped Federer in the French Open final and edged him in a five-set thrill ride of a Wimbledon final. Nadal does own five Grand Slam titles and has overtaken Federer in the rankings after the Swiss star's record 237-week stay at No. 1.

It would have been quite another to lose to Andreev, someone who showed up at this U.S. Open with a career mark of 2-3 at the place, someone who has only once made it as far as the quarterfinals at any major tournament, someone who entered Tuesday on a seven-match losing streak against players ranked in the top five.

That's not to say Andreev is a complete nobody. He knocked off Andy Roddick at the French Open last year. He is ranked in the top 25. But he is also now 1-7 in five-set matches, compared to Federer's 12-11 mark, and experience certainly was a factor at key stages.

In the second set, for example, Andreev accumulated seven break points—and Federer saved them all. Any one of those could have swung the match for good. And in the crucible of the fifth set, Andreev compiled four more break points, all with Federer serving at 4-2—and, again, Federer handled the situation better, erasing every one.

"Very important moment," Andreev acknowledged.

Federer played poorly at times, and Andreev seemed as though he simply could not miss a shot for stretches, scurrying along the baseline to whip his go-for-it forehand and find a line. In the second set, for example, Andreev had 18 winners and only three unforced errors, a stunning ratio, particularly against Federer.

Indeed, Andreev managed to make the once-invincible Federer seem human—not just during points, but between them.

Normally so calm, so collected, Federer often threw his head back in disappointment or screamed with delight. He pulled a ball out his pocket and chucked it. He cracked another ball into the net after one lost opportunity.

But he was at his best when he absolutely needed to be, and was brilliant up at the net, winning 58 of 84 points when he pressed forward.

"I was struggling to get into the groove from the baseline," Federer said.

His serve was broken in the match's opening game, and then he blew a lead in the first tiebreaker. That set closed with a 13-stroke exchange that Federer ended by missing a forehand wide—already his 19th unforced error of the match, nearly twice as many as Andreev, so far.

There was more of the same, but in the end, Federer could rely on a muscle memory from big matches on big stages that Andreev could not.

Phelps using $1M bonus to start swim foundation

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Phelps will put his $1 million bonus to good use, announcing plans to start a foundation promoting water safety and youth swimming. Joe Gromek, president and CEO of Warnaco, Speedo's U.S. parent company, presented a check to Phelps on NBC's "Today" show Tuesday.

The company, which has sponsored Phelps since he was 16, promised him a $1 million bonus if he tied or broke Mark Spitz's record for most gold medals at a single Olympics. The swimmer eclipsed the mark by winning eight golds at the Beijing Games—seven of them with world-record times.

Company spokeswoman Audra Silverman said Speedo International and the Warnaco Foundation will donate an additional $200,000 to the Michael Phelps Foundation.

He plans to launch his new foundation with an eight-city tour.

"This is a way for me to really help to grow the sport," Phelps said during his appearance on "Today."

Speedo first offered the bonus before the 2004 Athens Olympics, but Phelps came up just short of the record with six gold and two bronze medals. He is now the winningest athlete in Olympics history with 14 golds overall, five more than anyone else, and will try to add to his total at the 2012 London Games.

LeBron James to be featured in new documentary

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James has gone from the gold-medal stand to the silver screen.

The Cavaliers' megastar, fresh off helping the U.S. basketball team win gold at the Beijing Olympics, will be at the Toronto International Film Festival this weekend for the debut of "More Than A Game," a documentary chronicling his rise to stardom and how he and four childhood friends overcame long odds to win a national championship in high school.

Combining footage taken during James' career at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in nearby Akron, along with one-on-one interviews by writer/director Kris Belman, home videos, and personal family photographs, the film is about much more than basketball. At its core is a story of friendship, loyalty and love.

"We set out with a goal as kids and we wanted to accomplish that someway, somehow by using basketball as a tool, not knowing that it was going to create other opportunities for us," James said. "We didn't know it was going to create a brotherhood and trust. We grew from kids into young men."

James is expected to be joined by friends and former teammates Dru Joyce III, Sian Cotton, Willie McGee and Romeo Travis for the premiere.

Like the much-acclaimed 1994 film "Hoop Dreams," which followed two Chicago high school students chasing their dream of becoming pro basketball players, "More Than A Game" focuses on how James and his friends' lives are shaped by basketball.

Their journey began together as 8-year-old boys, winds through years crisscrossing the country playing in AAU tournaments and finishes in their senior season at St. Vincent-St. Mary, a year when James came under scrutiny for accepting a $50,000 sports-utility vehicle as a gift from his mother and his eligibility was briefly stripped by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

At the time, Belman was a film student at Loyola Marymount. He set out to chronicle James and his friends' season as his final school project, a 10-minute documentary. But after gaining the trust of the players and coach Dru Joyce, Belman spent two months filming and eventually teamed with producer Harvey Mason Jr. to the full-length feature.

James hopes the film will inspire youngsters.

"We set out with a goal when we were 8 and we accomplished it when we were 18," he said. "It's a great story and I wanted to get it out to kids that have a dream, that they should continue to go after it, believe in it and live it if they want to accomplish something."

Jags' Collier shot, has life-threatening injuries

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Jacksonville Jaguars offensive tackle Richard Collier was shot and critically wounded outside an apartment building early Tuesday as he and a former teammate waited for two women they had met at a nightclub, police said.

Collier, 26, and former Jaguars defensive end Kenneth Pettway were waiting in a Cadillac Escalade when a gunman fired into the vehicle, said Jacksonville Sheriff's Office spokesman Ken Jefferson. Collier was shot several times, but it wasn't clear where he was hit.

Collier was in critical condition at Shands Jacksonville Medical Center, a nursing supervisor said early Tuesday. Later, spokesman Chris Turner said the hospital was no longer giving updates on Collier's condition. Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said Collier's family had requested privacy.

Several Jaguars, including running back Maurice Jones-Drew, offensive tackle Khalif Barnes and linebackers Mike Peterson and Clint Ingram, gathered at the hospital. Others convened at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium.

"The guys are in shock," Pro Bowl running back Fred Taylor said. "You see this kind of thing happen all the time on TV, but you never expect it in your own backyard. He's a good dude. I just pray for him and his family and wish the best for them. I'm sure he'll pull through."

Del Rio said the entire organization paused Tuesday, taking a break from game planning for the season opener at Tennessee and focusing on what he called "a very unfortunate incident, really, really a shame."

"Right now, he's battling for his life," Del Rio said on his weekly radio show Tuesday night. "All we can do right now is pray for healing. We have no control over that situation other than saying some prayers."

Del Rio added that the team would "be fine."

"We're going to play football," he said. "But this is not about football. This is about life. This is about a man right now dealing with his body being put to the test, whether or not he can overcome these types of things. When you're in critical condition in the hospital, it's very, very serious. And that's what this is."

The motive behind the attack was unknown, and the sheriff's office was investigating. Pettway, who was released in final cuts Saturday, was not injured.

The shooting happened around 2:45 a.m. in a middle- to upper middle-class neighborhood just west of downtown Jacksonville and blocks from the St. Johns River. The players had gone to the apartment complex so the women could drop off their car, authorities said.

Ortiz has 4 RBIs to help Red Sox beat Baltimore

BOSTON (AP) — Dustin Pedroia had three hits and five RBIs, and David Ortiz went 3-for-3 and drove in four runs for Boston in a 14-2 victory over Baltimore on Tuesday.

Boston won for the 10th time in 14 games and took a four-game lead in the American League wild-card race. The Red Sox moved within four games of Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Jon Lester (13-5) allowed one run and six hits, striking out five and walking four in five innings. Coco Crisp had three hits for Boston.

Pedroia has hit in seven straight games, and is batting .600 (18-for-30) during that stretch. He leads the American League in hitting at .330.

Radhames Liz (5-4), who was called up from Triple-A before the game, gave up nine runs and nine hits in 3 1-3 innings. The Orioles lost for the 10th time in 11 games. Baltimore has allowed 55 runs and 42 walks in the last five games, all losses.

AP

Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz, left, welcomes home teammate Dustin Pedroia, right, after Pedroia hit a three-run home run off a pitch by Baltimore Orioles' Fernando Cabrera in the fourth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park, in Boston, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

Yankees 7, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Mike Mussina earned his 17th win, and New York got home runs from Alex Rodriguez and Xavier Nady to beat Tampa Bay.

Joba Chamberlain came off the disabled list for New York and pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings out of the bullpen.

Seeking his first 20-win season, Mussina (17-7) allowed two runs and 10 hits in six-plus innings. He matched a season high with eight strikeouts, improving to 3-0 against the Rays, who had won five straight.

Nady hit a two-run homer off Matt Garza (11-8). Rodriguez hit home run No. 548, tying Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt for 12th place on the career list. The eighth-inning solo shot off Jason Hammel was his 30th of the year, giving A-Rod 11 seasons with 30 or more.

Indians 9, White Sox 3

At Cleveland, Victor Martinez hit his first home run in nearly a year as Cleveland downed Chicago.

The White Sox remained tied with Minnesota for the AL Central lead despite losing for the fifth time in six games.

Fausto Carmona (8-5) pitched 5 2-3 innings to win his third straight start and Asdrubal Cabrera broke out of a 1-for-19 slump with three hits for the Indians, winners of 12 of 15.

Chicago's Nick Swisher snapped his 0-for-19 slide with an eighth-inning double.

Martinez put Cleveland ahead 2-0 in the second against John Danks (10-8) with his first homer in 57 games and 203 at-bats since Sept. 29.

Franklin Gutierrez's two-run double made it 4-0 in the fifth.

Blue Jays 7, Twins 5

At Toronto, Jose Bautista and Alex Rios both had four hits and hit back-to-back homers for Toronto in its seventh straight victory over Minnesota.

Lyle Overbay also homered for Toronto, which finished with 17 hits in winning its third straight.

Minnesota lost for the seventh time in 10 games and dropped to 5-7 with two games remaining in a season-long 14-game road trip.

Toronto got within 5-4 with a three-run fifth that featured a two-run homer by Bautista, his first since joining Toronto in an Aug. 21 trade with Pittsburgh. Rios followed with his 11th, giving Toronto back-to-back homers for the second time this season.

Rolen walked to lead off the sixth and Overbay put Toronto ahead 6-5 with a two-run homer off Boof Bonser (3-7), his 12th.

Angels 5, Tigers 4

At Detroit, Mark Teixeira's ninth-inning sacrifice fly gave Los Angeles the victory over Detroit.

Torii Hunter drove in three run for Los Angeles, which reduced its magic number to clinch the AL West to eight.

Miguel Cabrera hit his third home run in three days and drove in three runs for Detroit, which has lost seven of nine.

Fernando Rodney (0-4) walked Chone Figgins to lead off the ninth. Figgins then stole his third base of the game and went to third on a groundout. Teixeira's fly ball to center made it 5-4.

Cabrera's homer, his 31st, off Scot Shields (6-4) tied it at 4 with two outs in the eighth. It was the first run the Angels' bullpen allowed since Aug. 22, a span of 29 2-3 innings.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 54th save. The all-time record of 57 was set by Bobby Thigpen in 1990 with the Chicago White Sox.

Rangers 6, Mariners 4

At Arlington, Texas, Brandon McCarthy pitched six strong innings for his first win in more than 13 months and Josh Hamilton drove in three runs as Texas beat Seattle.

McCarthy (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits in his third start of the season. McCarthy, whose last victory was on July 31, 2007, at Cleveland, went on the 60-day disabled list on March 30 with right forearm inflammation after pitching an inning in a spring training game. He didn't begin throwing in the bullpen until June 21.

Hamilton, who increased his major league-leading RBI total to 121, Milton Bradley and Gerald Laird all had three hits for Texas, which ended the Mariners' season-best four-game winning streak.

Yuniesky Betancourt homered for the Mariners.

Royals 5, Athletics 2;

At Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler homered and drove in four runs to lead Kansas City past Oakland in a game between teams that combined for 40 losses in August.

It was the second time in three games Butler had four RBIs. He homered over the wall in left in the first for a 3-0 lead. Mike Aviles was walked by rookie Gio Gonzalez (1-3) and Jose Guillen reached on left fielder Aaron Cunningham's error.

Zack Greinke (10-9) allowed two runs in seven innings for his first win in five starts, walking one and striking out eight. Greinke, who hadn't won since Aug. 2, had his most strikeouts since ringing up a season-best 11 against the A's on July 28.

Dodgers 8, Padres 4

At Los Angeles, Manny Ramirez homered and drove in three runs and the Los Angeles Dodgers closed in on Arizona in the National League West with a victory over the San Diego Padres.

Andre Ethier had three hits, including a homer, and rookie Clayton Kershaw allowed a run and three hits in seven innings to help the Dodgers win their fourth straight and reduce the Diamondbacks' NL West lead to 1 1/2 games.

The four wins come after an eight-game losing streak.

Kershaw (3-5), who struck out six, was pulled after walking his first two batters in the eighth. Both runners scored when Ramon Troncoso gave up an RBI double to Luis Rodriguez and a two-run single to Kevin Kouzmanoff, making it 8-4. Joe Beimel retired the next three batters and pitched the ninth.

Ramirez's 520th career homer put him one behind Ted Williams, Willie McCovey and injured Oakland A's DH Frank Thomas, who are tied for 17th place. He has 30 this season, 10 since the trade that sent him from Boston to Los Angeles on July 31.

Cardinals 8, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, pitcher Adam Wainwright doubled in two runs and Troy Glaus hit one of St. Louis' three homers in a win over Arizona.

Yadier Molina and Felipe Lopez hit back-to-back shots to give Wainwright an early 5-0 lead. That made it seven home runs in two games for the Cardinals against the Diamondbacks.

On Monday, the Diamondbacks rallied from four runs down to win 8-6. This time the deficit reached 8-0, and there was no big comeback.

Wainwright (8-3), in his third start since returning from 2 1/2 months on the disabled list, struck out seven and walked two, yielding three hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Mets 6, Brewers 5, 10 innings

At Milwaukee, Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer and Endy Chavez drove in the decisive run in the 10th inning as New York edged Milwaukee.

Six relievers combined for seven shutout innings, helping the NL East leaders remain two games ahead of second-place Philadelphia. The Mets won for the 16th time in 21 games.

Milwaukee's wild-card lead was cut to 4 1/2 games over the Phillies.

Pinch-hitter Daniel Murphy opened the 10th with a single off Salomon Torres (6-4), went to third on a throwing error and scored on Chavez's sacrifice fly.

Beltran gave the Mets a 5-1 lead in the third with his 22nd homer. New York has homered in 13 straight games.

Phillies 4, Nationals 0

At Washington, Cole Hamels pitched into the eighth inning and Jimmy Rollins drove in two runs as Philadelphia snapped Washington's seven-game winning streak.

Hamels (12-8) gave up five hits in 7 1-3 innings, striking out six and walking three.

Rollins had two RBI singles and a walk for the Phillies, who began the day two games behind first-place New York in NL East.

J.C. Romero, Chad Durbin and Brad Lidge finished the six-hitter. The Nationals have been shut out 20 times, seven more than any other major league team.

Washington's winning streak was its longest since a 10-game run in 2005.

Braves 16, Marlins 14

At Miami, pinch-hitter Ruben Gotay had an RBI double in the ninth inning and Atlanta spoiled a seven-run rally by Florida.

Kelly Johnson had four hits and four RBIs, and Omar Infante had four hits and two RBIs for the Braves, who had a season-high in runs. Atlanta, which snapped a four-game losing streak, scored 14 runs against Cincinnati on May 4.

Alfredo Amezega had a career-high five RBIs for the Marlins, who have not won consecutive games since July 30-31.

The game featured 30 runs, 36 hits and 14 pitchers.

Pirates 3, Reds 2

At Cincinnati, rookies Brandon Moss and Andy LaRoche hit back-to-back home runs to help Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati and snap a 10-game losing streak.

Moss and LaRoche were both acquired in a three-way trade on July 31 that sent left fielder Manny Ramirez from the Red Sox to the Dodgers and left fielder Jason Bay from the Pirates to Boston.

Moss, sent to the Pirates from the Red Sox, had a career-high three hits.

Ian Snell (6-10) lasted six innings, giving up seven hits and two runs—one earned. He struck out five. Matt Capps pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save.

Moss hit his sixth home run since joining the Pirates in the second, and LaRoche followed with his fifth overall to give Pittsburgh a 2-1 lead.

The home runs were the 30th and 31st homers allowed by Cincinnati starter Aaron Harang (4-15), who allowed five hits and three runs in six innings.

Astros 9, Cubs 7, 11 innings

At Chicago, Geoff Blum hit a two-run homer off Kerry Wood in the 11th inning to send Houston past Chicago for its seventh straight victory.

The first-place Cubs, who have lost four straight, all at home, remained 4 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Wood (4-3) walked Lance Berkman and Blum sent the first pitch for his 14th homer. Wood struck out four in two innings.

The Cubs had 15 hits and eight walks, but they also hit into four double plays and stranded 13 runners. Third baseman Aramis Ramirez committed errors in the ninth, 10th and 11th innings.

Rockies 6, Giants 5, 12 innings

At Denver, Ryan Spilborghs singled home Omar Quintanilla with one out in the bottom of the 12th as Colorado beat San Francisco.

Quintanilla started the rally by singling off Keiichi Yabu (3-6), and Matt Holliday walked. Giants closer Brian Wilson came on and Spilborghs lined a single down the right-field line to end the game.

Troy Tulowitzki homered for the Rockies, his sixth of the year.

Jason Grilli (3-1), the sixth Colorado reliever, struck out four and walked one in three innings.

Tiger Woods says wife Elin expecting 2nd child

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)— Even with his golf done for the year, Tiger Woods found something to celebrate Tuesday: His wife is pregnant with their second child. Woods said on his Web site that Elin is expecting in late winter without being more specific on a due date.

He has not played since his U.S. Open victory in June, and two weeks later had reconstructive surgery on his left knee that put him out for the year. Woods' first child, daughter Sam, was born the Monday after the 2007 U.S. Open.

"Elin is feeling great and we are both thrilled," Woods said. "While my injury has been disappointing and frustrating, it has allowed me to spend a lot of time watching Sam grow. I can't begin to tell you how rewarding it is being a dad and spending time with her and Elin.

"The injury has been a blessing and a disappointment."

The world No. 1 player has begun rehabilitation and has traveled recently to Dubai and New York for business projects.

Woods had said after he married in 2004 that he wanted more than one child. Woods was an only child, while Elin has a twin sister.

Pacquiao fans see knockout win

MANILA, Philippines— The majority of online boxing fans believe that Manny Pacquiao will pull off a "shock knockout" victory over his boyhood idol Oscar De La Hoya when they clash on Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

In a poll conducted by the Pacquiao website Pacland, 46 percent of the respondents said the national boxing hero will beat the taller, bigger and craftier De La Hoya.

In contrast, only one of seven from a total of 4,460 respondents, or 14.4 percent, said the fight will result in a "brutal KO" for De La Hoya, who will go down two weight classes to battle the Filipino WBC lightweight champion in the catchweight of 147 lb for welterweights.

Former boxer Barry McGuigan, in an article on the Internet, wrote that De La Hoya will "have Pacquiao on the end of that long jab and will be looking to drop the right hand on him at every opportunity."

McGuigan expects Pacquiao's corner, though, to draft a clever war strategy— "courtesy of the great tactician Freddie Roach"— to "bring De La Hoya down."

"Pacquiao will want to dictate terms, apply pressure from the center of the ring, keep the tempo high," said McGuigan. "If De La Hoya is weight-drained, the body will be a big target for Pacquiao to take away his opponent's strength and resolve."

Another article in boxingscene.com penned by T.K. Stewart said the 35-year-old De La Hoya's fading glory was evident during his May fight against Steve Forbes, who like Pacquiao climbed a weight class for the fight, but unlike him, doesn't pack an explosive double-barreled punch.

"At 35, De La Hoya is a tarnished version of his younger self, and since the feather-fisted Forbes cracked his cheekbone— (imagine) what will Pacquiao do?" Stewart wrote.

Still, a significant number of those polled by the Pacland website believe that the fight— easily the biggest of the year— would go the distance.

Pacquiao will prevail in a "very close contest," according to 13.1 percent of the respondents, while 9.7 percent said it's going to be a "competitive fight" with De La Hoya winning.

Eight percent believe that Pacquiao will "run rings around" De La Hoya and win by decision, while 4.1 percent said the Golden Boy will win by "easy decision." Almost 4 percent said they "don't want to take part in the circus" and 1 percent said it's going to be a draw. ***(PDI)***

Painters give up De Vance for Laure, Mercado

MANILA, Philippines—Rain or Shine added more muscle to its guard rotation a day after snagging Gabe Norwood as the top overall pick of the 2008 PBA Rookie Draft.

The Elasto Painters sent sophomore forward Joe De Vance to the Alaska Aces in exchange for rookie Solomon Mercado and five-year veteran forward Eddie Laure Monday.

Tabbed by the Aces at fifth overall during Sunday's draft, the 6-foot-1 Mercado will now join Norwood, a 6-5 guard from US NCAA Division 1 school George Mason University, in the backcourt rotation of the Elasto Painters.

De Vance, last year's top draft pick who led all newcomers with 13.6 points and 6.5 rebounds, will provide Alaska coach Tim Cone an option other than Sonny Thoss and power forward Reynel Hugnatan.

"He's (De Vance) talented but we are more inclined to have a team that loves to run, college-ball style," said Rain or Shine head coach Caloy Garcia.

Plagued by injuries last year, the 6-foot-7 De Vance has the tendency to take more attempts from the outside than mix it up and bang bodies inside the paint.

Apart from releasing De Vance, the Elasto Painters also gave up a pair of second-round picks for the next two seasons.

With the 6-foot-7 Jay-R Reyes and Laure now manning the slot for the Elasto Painters, Garcia said the team is searching for another big guy as reliever for Reyes. ***(PDI)***

King of the Diamonds third qualifier Sept. 13-14

The third qualifier for the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament will be held on Sept. 13 and 14 at the Capitol Hill Field.

The third qualifier will have a double-elimination format and an entrance fee of $150.

It is a co-ed event with each team required to have players who are at least 18-years-old. Each squad must also have two female players on the field at all times and is allowed to list a maximum of 15 players on its roster.

Winner of the two-day tournament will join early qualifiers Shell Marianas and Natibu in the championship round set for next month and will have a chance to represent the CNMI in a tournament in Palau.

Shell Marianas took the first qualifying slot in May, winning the nine-team first round downing SaiPal in the finals. Total Chaos finished third.

With their second and third place finishes, SaiPal and Total Chaos gained entry to the wild card/consolation phase of the tournament on which the fourth and last qualifying seat will be at stake.

The wild card round is scheduled for Oct. 4 and 5 and is for teams which place second and third in the first three qualifiers. If a squad had already qualified, the next two teams will take the two wild card berths.

The second qualifying tournament was held early this month with Shell Marianas winning anew, topping Natibu in the finals. But Natibu automatically claimed the second qualifying berth, as Shell Marianas had already made it to the championship round.

SaiPal and Total Chaos were the third and fourth placers, respectively, in the second round. But since they are assured of slots in the wild card phase having placed second and third in the first qualifier, fifth placer Sufa and sixth-ranked On Da Rox got two of the remaining four seats for the wild card phase.

The last two wild card slots will be given to the second and third place teams in the third qualifier this month.

A single-elimination format will be implemented in the wild card phase with the winner joining Shell Marianas, Natibu, and the top finisher of the third qualifier in the championship round set for Oct. 11 and 12.

For more information, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

LOW T

From Page 28

tended family and friends who have relocated to the U.S. mainland for school and job opportunities. Being like-minded, the organizers felt that holding a softball tournament that would include teams from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Saipan, and Washington, and the camaraderie associated with sporting events, would be the way to enhance the islanders' continued sense of home and community. This was the birth of the Goodwill CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament. In 2005, the inaugural event was held in Salem, Oregon, and each year thereafter the tournament has been hosted by different CNMI communities in other western cities," said co-chairs Jolene G. Torres and John P. Schwarz.

The 2008 tournament was co-hosted by Las Vegas and The Bay Area (California) teams.

The Planning Committee was co-chaired by Jolene G. Torres, John P. Schwarz, and Carlos Sablan; secretary Tina Hofschneider; treasurers, Krissy Hayes and Vanessa Flores; food and beverage Lucretia Borja; field and logistics Jesse Tenorio, James Sablan, and Joe Torres; entertainment Patrick Reyes and Jeff Diaz; and hotel information Rowena D. Schwarz.

The committee is to be commended for their outmost hospitality and excellent planning. They provided a safe and comfortable environment, including ample supplies of chilled bottle water, restroom supplies, and the ever so popular island music that kept your energy high. High winds provided some thrilling moments as some spectators had to hang on to their pop-up canopies. The event ended with a very tasty island-style banquet that included five huge roasted pigs.

The committee wishes to thank the numerous volunteers and supporters for their generous donations of time and money that helped to make this tournament the success that it was.

The 2009 5th Annual Goodwill CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament will be co-hosted by the teams from Arizona and San Diego, California, and will be held in San Diego.

POWER

From Page 28

Company to change and supply water in the pool.

"We will be waiting for Marianas Resort's go-ahead signal if the pool is ready for the tournament. We can't do anything about it, we can't put our swimmers at risk, swimming in a shallow pool," Blasberg said.

Stan Good, Tsunami Saipan president, said for now they are using the pool for practices.

"Tsunami Saipan can't do anything about the power outage. We just need to make use of what we have now and be extra cautious when plunging into the pool, especially when one flips" Good said.

The Kan Pacific Swimming Pool is a 50-meter pool. Its depth from the starting block when the water level is normal is 5'9", but now it is down to 5'2", according to lifeguard Emil Sereno.

The water level at other end of the starting block is down to 2'0" from 3'0", while the middle part of the pool, which should be at 7'9", is now at 7'2".

Gary De Guzman, another lifeguard, said last week the water level was very low, as the power went off three times a day.

Tuesday, the water level was a few inches below its normal level. Yesterday, the water level improved, as it rained Tuesday and early morning Wednesday, and the power went off only once.

In yesterday's practice, Rezne Wong, who stands 5'11", had to do a half-flip on the other end of the pool, for safety purposes. The same goes with Cooper Graf and Kai Staal, who are only a few inches shorter than Wong.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said in its news releases that power outages on Saipan would be lessen by mid September once the generators it will lease from Aggreko International arrive. The first shipment of the London-based company arrived on Saipan from Singapore, two weeks ago.

Power outages forced cancellation of games in the PTI and Rotary basketball tournament at the Gilbert C. Ad Gymnasium. The power crisis also frustrated the Rangers and Rock Steady who spent three agonizing week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield before finishing the title series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

SITCHON

From Page 28

spite hosting a fundraising race several months ago to help defray the cost of his participation in the XTERRA World.

He, however, thanked those who joined the fundraiser, as money raised from the event will still be used for his trip to L.A.

This Sunday's races will have Hollywood actress Jennifer Lopez as its endorser. Lopez's triathlon activities are shown in promotional videos of the races.

The swim leg of the race will be an L-shaped swim in the Pacific Ocean at Venice Beach.

Participants will swim perpendicular to the shore, west 150 meters, left turn, swim south for 630 meters, another left turn to the east for 50 meters (toward the shoreline), then another left turn north for 570 meters and right turn to the shore for 100 meters. The start and the finish will be about 60 meters apart.

The bike course will start from Venice Blvd. then heads to Fairfax. The course goes up a slight incline on Fairfax to Wilshire. On Wilshire, bikers will go through Museum Row and the Miracle Mile. The course turns onto Highland briefly then turns right on 6th St. at approximately the 10 mile mark. Participants will cruise through the beautiful residential area of Hancock Park to Alvarado.

The run course will begin at Sunset Blvd. turnaround near Alexandria, heads back down Sunset Blvd. and merges with Sprint course at Alvarado. Both courses continue down Sunset Blvd. to Beaudry.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

player's performance.

The 40mm ball weighs in at 2.7 grams, compared to the old 38mm ball at 2.5 grams.

Accordingly, the bigger size makes the ball travel four to eight percent slower and reduces the effect of spin on the ball about 10 to 13 percent.

Proponents of the game also theorized that the intent was to make the rallies longer and in turn make the game more exciting for players and spectators.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	84	52	.618	_
Boston	81	57	.587	4
New York	74	64	.536	11
Toronto	71	66	.518	13 1/2
Baltimore	63	75	.457	22

Central Division

Chicago	77	61	.558	_
Minnesota	77	61	.558	_
Cleveland	67	70	.489	9 1/2
Detroit	66	72	.478	11
Kansas City	58	79	.423	18 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	84	53	.613	_
Texas	68	72	.486	17 1/2
Oakland	63	75	.457	21 1/2
Seattle	54	84	.391	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	78	61	.561	_
Philadelphia	76	63	.547	2
Florida	70	69	.504	8
Atlanta	60	79	.432	18
Washington	53	86	.381	25

Central Division

Chicago	85	54	.612	_
Milwaukee	80	58	.580	4 1/2
St. Louis	75	64	.540	10
Houston	73	66	.525	12
Cincinnati	61	77	.442	23 1/2
Pittsburgh	58	79	.423	26

West Division

Arizona	70	68	.507	_
Los Angeles	69	70	.496	1 1/2
Colorado	66	74	.471	5
San Francisco	59	79	.428	11
San Diego	53	85	.384	17

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 16, Florida 14
Philadelphia 4, Washington 0
Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Milwaukee 5, 10 innings
Houston 9, Chicago Cubs 7, 11 innings
Colorado 6, San Francisco 5, 12 innings
St. Louis 8, Arizona 2
L.A. Dodgers 8, San Diego 4
Boston 14, Baltimore 2
L.A. Angels 5, Detroit 4
Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 3
Toronto 7, Minnesota 5
N.Y. Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 2
Texas 6, Seattle 4
Kansas City 5, Oakland 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	3	0
G-Rollers I	2	0
Kontenders	2	1
San Antonio Sixers	1	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	1	1
Suns	0	1
G-Rollers II	0	3
G-Stars	0	2
C.K. Saints	0	1

NMC quest for pennant hinges on last two games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Basketball aficionados probably have lost count on how many matches in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League were suspended due to the rolling power outages, but they certainly remember the latest one was the important game between Northern Marianas College and defending champion Autonomous Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMC and Autonomous players were getting ready for the second half when darkness filled the gym.

Players, officials, and several spectators waited for a few minutes wishing that the power will be back soon.

Wish not granted.

Game was suspended with NMC leading at halftime, 45-35.

The match was one of the two remaining games in the regular season. The playoff cast is already completed, but the last two matches still must be played to determine the league's pennant champion.

NMC holds an 8-1 record and a win against Autonomous and the Commonwealth Ports Authority last night will give them the pennant, beating PTI in the tiebreaker. PTI finished the regular season with a 10-1 mark, but will drop to No. 2 spot if NMC sweeps its last two games due to the win-over-the-other rule. PTI lost to NMC in their lone match in the regular season, 82-87.

The NMC-Autonomous tiff was first set for Aug. 26, but the match was suspended even before in started. PTI was playing the Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply on the same night, but a power outage stopped the game in the 4:32 mark in the fourth quarter.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMC's Jerry Diaz is sandwiched by Autonomous' Ponce Rasa, right, and Bobby Coldeen, as he drives to the basket during their power outage-halted match in the PTI caging Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMC and Autonomous players were already in the gym, waiting for the PTI-DPW game to finish, but were forced to go home early and wait for another week to play the cancelled match.

Still, Autonomous and NMC did not have much luck when they reported for the rescheduled match Tuesday night.

The continuation of the game was set to be played last night. NMC was also scheduled to duel CPA on the same night.

Mark Wallace was leading NMC's attack against Automous, having scored 17 points in the first half.

Rufino Aguon has added 10 points, all in the second quarter to turn a 15-14 lead in the first period to a 10-point margin at halftime.

Aguon scored NMC's last four markers in the second quarter on a rare four-point play. The CNMI Men's and Junior National coach swooshed a triple from the left key and made the shot. He was given a bonus shot on a second motion from Autonomous' Ed Diaz.

Ponce Rasa was leading Automous with 14 points.

Meanwhile, Tinian outgunned the Department of Corrections in their make-up game Saturday, 104-93.

Ringo Reyes topscored for Tinian with 30 points, while Jess Aquiningoc and Anthony Borja chipped in 20 and 18 markers, respectively.

After leading Corrections by only three points at halftime, 38-35, Tinian started pulling away in the third with Reyes and Aquiningoc on the firing end. The duo combined for 15 third-quarter points and gave Tinian a commanding 72-57 lead, entering the final period.

Tinian never looked back from thereon as Reyes continued to hit his shots in the fourth canto.

Tinian 104 – R. Reyes 30, Aquiningoc 20, Borja 18, Santos 13, J. Reyes 10, Sarmie 6.

Corrections 83 – Blas 15, Itibus 13, Iguel 11, Quitugua 11, Joab 9, Mendiola 8, Mendez 4, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-all, 38-35, 72-57, 104-83.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Eric Artillaga.

Sonics hammer Saints for third win in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Southern Sonics hardly felt the absence of top gunner Manuel Ajoste, as they demolished the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 91-56, in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics played their first game sans Ajoste, who left Monday morning for Texas to join the military. The Sonics shooting guard averaged 13.5 points in the team's 2-0 start in the 18-and-under caging.

Manuel's sibling, Bryan filled the void left by his older brother on the Sonics' offense, scoring 15 points.

But the biggest contribution came from Tristan Ecalnea, who wanted to prove he is worthy of a slot on the team. Ecalnea played for the Junior Sonics in the Rotary caging last season and was elevated to the club's senior team this year.

He played in the Sonics' two games, but was hardly a factor in the team's two victories. In the Sonics' 71-64 win over the CNMI Junior Nationals, the burly Ecalnea had only five points. Several Sonics players had a field day on offense in their 81-48 spanking of the G-Stars, but Ecalnea failed to rise to the occasion, making only two points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Southern Sonics' Augustine Hocog, right, guards CNMI Junior Nationals' Jose Castro, during the opening game in the Rotary caging last month. The Sonics won and now lead the league with a 3-0 record after beating the Chalan Kanoa Saints Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Against the Saints, Ecalnea finally showed what stuff he is made of, exploding for 23 points.

Nine other Sonics players contributed on offense, outscoring the Saints bench.

The Saints had only Luizi Reyes scoring in double figures with 30. Their next best scorer was Jay Mafnas with eight.

Overall the Saints' bench combined for only eight points. The Sonics drew 33 points from their second stringers.

The Saints were still in the game after the first half, trailing by only 11, 35-24, as Luigi Reyes found his marks early, firing 14 points in the first 20 minutes of the match.

But the Sonics broke the game wide open in the second half with Ecalnea leading the attack. The Saipan Southern High School sophomore, who had only five points in the first half, scored the Sonics' first 10 points in the second half to lift his team to their third straight win in as many games.

Leo Galarse teamed up with Ecalnea in leading the Sonics' breakaway in the second half, drilling nine of his 11 points in that period.

The victory put the Sonics in solo lead, a win ahead of the G-Rollers I.

The Saints played only their first game of the season. They were the latest addition to the league and were supposed to debut against the G-Stars last Friday, but a power outage forced the cancellation of the game.

Sonics 91 – Ecalnea 23, Ajoste 15, Galarse 11, Salem 9, Cadiang 7, Chan 7, Hocog 5, Metran 4, Masga 4, Eclevia 2, Dela Cruz 2.

Saints 56 – L. Reyes 30, Manas 8, Masga 5, Norita 4, Iglesias 3, Lizama 3, Cruz 2, Nedlic 1.

Scoring by halves: 35-24, 91-56.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Arnold Mesa.

Belau league: Taisakan 2-run homer powers Auel Auel past PTI, 11-10

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leftfielder Ben Taisakan scored a two-run homer in the seventh inning that lifted Auel Auel to an 11-10 triumph over a stunned PTI team in last Sunday's resumption of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's and Women's League at the Dandan Elementary School ballfield.

Before that, Auel Auel rallied from a 6-10 deficit after Wise Aguon scored PTI's 10th and final run of the game on a single by Theo Minor.

Lucian George, Delwin Kadiasang, and Mike Taitano scored in succession then Taisakan found the right time to score the huge homerun that also sent Stan Aldan to home plate for the clincher.

In the other games of the men's division, Man Amigos, PIC, and SaiPal also prevailed against their respective opponents and kept their track going.

Man Amigos exploded for six runs right on top of the first inning en route to a 15-3 win over the Falcons.

Vinnie Sablan, Mike Sablan, Joey de la Cruz, Nick Castro, Mark Flores, and Jonathan Tenorio sparked the scoring rampage for Man Amigos, who continued to dominate the game despite a solo homerun by the Falcons shortstop B.J. Guerrero at the bottom of the first.

Man Amigos scored four more runs in second, one in the third and four in the fifth.

The third baseman De la Cruz went 4-for-4 including a solo homerun at the bottom of the third.

B.J. Guerrero and Jay Camacho reached home plate in the sixth but that was the best the Falcons could do in the game.

Nine batters scored for PIC at the top of seventh inning leading to a 19-9 win over Haga-T, which failed to recover by scoring only a run by Arnel Takai at the bottom of seventh.

SaiPal also won via forfeiture against the no show Bombers.

In the women's side, the Hitters defeated Sakudi, 12-7.

Five teams confirm for PHILCOWA caging

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Five teams have so far confirmed to join the maiden season of the Philippine Contract Workers Association Basketball League during a meeting last Tuesday with organizers.

PHILCOWA sports coordinator Pando Muleta said there are five more slots left before they proceed with the opening ceremonies on Sept. 28.

Muleta said they have decided to change the original plan of separating the tournament into two divisions and make it into just an open division format.

He said they are skipping the 35-and-above division.

The venue will be at the CIC Centre basketball court at the back of CIC building along Beach Road.

During the opening ceremonies, awards will be given out, including the Best in Uniform and Best in Muse, who must be 18-25 years old to qualify.

Muleta said the deadline for submission of entries would be on Sept. 21.

Each team will have a maximum of 13 players with an entry fee of $500 for each team.

Muleta said the entry fee could be paid in full or a 50 percent down payment but a team must make sure to pay the 50 percent balance after its first two games or before it could be able to play in its third game.

Another meeting will be held next Tuesday, Sept. 9, to finalize the tournament format and league rules, as well as prizes, trophies and uniforms.

Interested teams are invited to attend the meeting. For more details, contact Pando Muleta at 285-9783.

NMC quest for pennant hinges on last two games

Basketball aficionados probably have lost count on how many matches in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League were suspended due to the rolling power outages.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Federer holds on to avoid major upset at US Open

His strokes awry, his emotions laid bare for all to see, Roger Federer figured out a way to stay in the U.S. Open.

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Low T wins 2008 Labor Day Softball

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Low T players pose after winning the 4th Annual Goodwill CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament. The team is made up of Kyle Taisacan, Tony Taisacan, Taula Peter, Tommy Kapileo, Akoni Kapileo, Tony Taisacan Sr., Jimmy Sablan, Mike Gumataotao, Pat Pua, Joe Tenorio, Pete Roberto, Wayne Atalig, and team manager Marco Peter.

BY CLAUDIA DLG FAJARDO KAERCHER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Island spirit filled the Cheyenne Sports Complex in Las Vegas, Nevada for the 4th Annual Goodwill CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament last Aug. 30 and 31.

The event was attended by approximately a thousand people, and several past, present, and future leaders of our island communities were in attendance.

All in attendance were transported to the Mariana Islands in Micronesia and hafa adai and si Yu'us ma'ase was echoed throughout the event.

Team Low T emerged as the winner of this year's tournament. Players from the three different states of Washington, Oregon, and California made up the team and they were Kyle Taisacan, Tony Taisacan, Taula Peter, Tommy Kapileo, Akoni Kapileo, Tony Taisacan Sr., Jimmy Sablan, Mike Gumataotao, Pat Pua, Joe Tenorio, Pete Roberto, Wayne Atalig, and team manager Marco Peter.

Second place went to Chamlau, from the State of Washington. Team members were Whitney Kyota, Vincent Perado, Waldren Ngotel, Patrick Aldan, Albert Taimanglo, Duane Garcia, Frankie Vibar, Dave Brokaw, Limu Kelikoa, Oilong, and team manager Wilton Ngotel.

Third place went to Atdit from the State of Hawaii. Team members were Eric Palacios, Ben Jones, Jr., Angel Falig, Jr., Jeff Diaz, Jun Palacios, Ray Guerrero, Fuji Suel, Manny Salas, Mike Salas, Victor Salas, Angel Salas, Jr., John Tudela, Jordan Suel, Jason Neth, Jerry Ayuyu, Manny Sablan, Juan "J.D." Diaz, and team manager Angel Demapan,

There were 17 total teams that competed for the championship title—Adaihao, Boise, ID; Antigu, San Diego,CA; Atdit, Honolulu, HI; Atmarao, Arizona; Chamlau, Washington; Da Bay, Bay Area, CA; Da Bay 2, Bay Area, CA; Isao, Las Vegas, NV; Island Boyz, Washington; Kmmnwlth, San Diego, CA; Low T, WA, OR, CA; Marianas Islanders 670, Seattle, WA; Natibu, Las Vegas, NV; Pac Chain, Boise, ID; Team Sufa, Saipan, MP; Trenchers, Salem, OR; and Tugong, Portland, OR.

"This tournament started over three years ago when a few like-minded individuals from different West Coast states realized the importance of maintaining connections, language, and heritage of the islands with ex-

See LOW T on Page 26

Sitchon leaves for LA Triathlon today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KAISER PERMANENTE Los Angeles Triathlon HERBALIFE

XTERRA Saipan Championship age-group champion Manny Sitchon will be leaving for Los Angeles this afternoon to compete in the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Triathlon, which will be held this Sunday.

Sitchon, who won in the 50-55 age group of the XTERRA Saipan early this year, will be participating in the Olympic-distance triathlon, which will cover a 1.5-kilometer swim leg, 40km bike, and 10km run.

The tournament will also have a sprint competition (750meter swim, 20km bike, 5km run), but Sitchon decided to go for the longer race.

"I am comfortable with the longer race and it is what I trained for," said Sitchon, who posted 28 minutes, 52 seconds in the 1.5km swim leg of the XTERRA Saipan Championships, 02:54:52 in the 30km bike leg, and 1:43:51 in the 10m run to finish the race in 5:07:25.

Sitchon used to swim during lunch time off Susupe beach park every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to prepare for the tournament in L.A. He had his run practice three times a week, cruising along the Airport Road in the afternoon, and rode his bike on weekends.

"I am hoping to finish the race in L.A. injury free and with a decent time," Sitchon said.

The 52-year old triathlete decided to compete in L.A., his first triathlon event outside the CNMI instead of going to Maui, Hawaii for the 2008 XTERRA World Championships to save money.

Sitchon earned a trip to Maui for winning in the 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championships, but could not make it to Hawaii de-

See SITCHON on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tsunami swimmer practices in a shallow Kan Pacific Swimming Pool yesterday. Tsunami and SSC swimmers were supposed to have a meet this Saturday, but the tournament was cancelled due to the low water level at the Marpi pool.

Power outages lower water level at Marpi pool, cancel swim meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

SC 2008

The Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan-Saipan Swim Club monthly meet joined the growling lists of events which were either suspended or rescheduled due to the rolling power outages.

SSC coach Michael Blasberg in a telephone interview said the first monthly meet between his swimmers and the Tsunamis had to wait for next month because of the low water level at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi

The meet was supposed to take place this Saturday, but water level at the Marpi pool is about below its normal level, making the facility inappropriate and risky for a tournament.

Frequent and long power outages make it hard for the maintenance team of the Marianas Resort Development

See POWER on Page 26

Japanese champ to lead 12-man contingent in Big Ball tourney

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

MATTA

A champion ping-pong player will lead an eight-woman, four-man Japanese team on their three-day trip here in the CNMI for the upcoming Big Ball Tournament organized by the Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association.

MATTA is currently finalizing the venue to hold the event, which is slated from Oct. 9 to 11.

MATTA president Steve Lim and tourney coordinator Budhi Gurung said they are working on the possibility of holding it on Tinian, which was the original plan.

MATTA decided to move it to Saipan but Lim is still hoping that Tinian will host the games.

The 12 players from Japan, Lim said, are the Ambassadors of Big Ball.

He said they have been promoting this sport for quite a while.

Lim said Big Ball is gaining popularity in the United States and in Europe.

"It is already popular in Asia, like in Japan, and Korea," he said referring to the use of a larger 40mm table tennis ball.

Manufacturers particularly in Asian countries like Japan, Korea, and China theorized that the use of such kind of ball could improve a

See JAPANESE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MATTA president Steve Lim hits the ball back to Budhi Gurung during their practice match at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium multi-purpose room Tuesday night.